Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Said To Sponsor Arab, Israeli Meeting

JN0103102693 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 26 Feb 93 pp 1, 17

[Report by Khalil Khurmah in Amman]

[Text] AL-BAYAN has learned that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has informed the leaders of the Arab countries bordering Israel that U.S. President Bill Clinton intends to invite the leaders of these countries and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to a summit meeting that will be attended by the United States in the second half of this year to sign comprehensive peace agreements on all fronts.

Sources close to the U.S. Embassy in Amman told AL-BAYAN that Christopher conveyed this American desire to the leaders of the countries he visited. He told the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations that during next month, Washington will take practical steps toward resumption of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO to prepare for the success of this idea.

The sources pointed out that the Israeli Knesset's decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO was made at a U.S. request in order to remove the obstacles preventing direct meetings between Israel and the PLO, which were obstructing the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

These sources said the ideas presented by Christopher to the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations included several demands, which Washington says the Palestinian side should meet before the resumption of the dialogue. The most important of these demands are:

—To openly recognize Israel's right to live in secure and recognized borders.

—To work for halting armed operations in the occupied territories.

—To announce commitment to the peace process and state that a solution can only be attained through negotiations.

—Not to link at present the transitional stage of the settlement and the final stage, and to delay discussing this subject until the negotiations on the final stage begin. A U.S. pledge will be given that Israel will not embark on any steps that change the features of the occupied territories.

—To declare an open and clear position condemning the behavior of the Iraqi regime for its refusal to implement the UN resolutions on the Gulf war and for obstructing the activities of the UN inspection teams.

Lebanon Said To Ask To Join Damascus Declaration

NC2602133593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1223 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Feb (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt received assurances from several Gulf countries indicating their desire to implement the Damascus Declaration. In an exclusive statement to be published in the 27 February issue of the Kuwaiti magazine AL-MAJALIS, Musa described the Damascus Declaration as a new test of the Arabs' ability to take joint action, especially as it is the first Arab agreement signed after the Gulf war.

Musa denied media reports that Egypt has threatened to withdraw from the Declaration. He called for the quick implementation of all the Declaration's provisions to remove any doubt about the member states' credibility.

And AL-MAJALIS said Lebanon intends to ask to join the Damascus Declaration. Citing Lebanese diplomatic sources, the magazine said the Lebanese request has been approved in principle by most of the states that signed the Declaration.

Maghreb, EC Create Commercial Association

LD2702115193 Algiers APS in English 1107 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 27/02/93 (APS)—A commercial association between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Maghreb (ACCM) was created recently in Brussels and its secretary general is a Moroccan national, Mohamed Senhadji, international consultant and administrator delegate of the Bureau of Representation and International Relations in the European capital. The objectives of the ACCM include the development of relations between the EEC and the Maghreb as concerns the cooperation between the EEC and the Maghrebin small and medium enterprises in the industrial, commercial, agricultural and cultural fields. The ACCM aims also at the rapprochement of the Community and the Maghrebin enterprises for the achievement of common interests projects.

[Rabat MAP in English at 1237 GMT on 26 February, in a Brussels-datelined report, likewise notes: An EEC-Maghreb trade association has just been set up in Brussels with a Moroccan national Mohamed Senhadji as secretary general. The association sets as an aim to promote EEC-Maghreb relations particularly at the level of cooperation between small and medium scale enterprises dealing with industry, trade, agriculture and culture.]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Discusses Delegation's Christopher Meeting

JN2602195793 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] It has been reported in Tunis that the PLO Executive Committee held a meeting on Wednesday [24 February] evening under brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. An informed Palestinian source said that the Executive Committee's meeting, in which officials from the Palestinian factions making up the PLO took part, dealt with the results of the two meetings that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held with a delegation of Palestinian figures in the occupied territories under brother Faysal al-Husayni. The source added that the meeting also dealt with the situation in the occupied territories and the latest developments on both Arab and international fronts.

'Arafat Receives Message From Russian Leadership

LD2702202293 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] yesterday received Boris Shchiborin, the Russian ambassador to Tunisia, who gave the brother president an urgent message from the Russian leadership. The message concerned current developments and the meeting which took place between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in connection with the deportations issue and the peace process.

President Abu-'Ammar explained the American retreat from the proposals which the U.S. secretary of state put forward to the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem two days ago. He also pointed out the danger of dropping the question of Jerusalem and discussed the Israeli retreats which are destroying the peace process.

Christopher 'Agreement' With Palestinians Reported

JN2802104293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Palestinian sources in Cairo have this evening revealed that the United States is trying to narrow the gap between the Palestinians and Israelis in order to resume the Middle East peace process. The sources said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has presented the following six-point agreement:

1. The issuance of a U.S. statement that expulsions are illegal and a U.S. commitment that Israel will fully implement UN Resolution 799, which calls for the return of all the remaining 396 Palestinians it expelled to Lebanon on 17 December.

2. A U.S. commitment that the next round of peace negotiations in Washington will focus clearly on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and that the status of Jerusalem can be discussed.

3. A binding commitment from Israel not to carry out any future expulsions.

4. The accelerated return of deportees in implementation of Resolution 799.

5. The return of a large number of other Palestinians deported since 1967.

6. Agreement by Israel to stop human rights violations in the occupied territories.

The Palestinian sources said Christopher told the Palestinians after he met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for two hours that Israel had agreed in principle to the proposals and that the details and final text will be negotiated with U.S. officials in Jerusalem.

Israeli Rejection of Proposals Discussed

JN2802134493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Report by Randah Habib from Amman]

[Text] Negotiations on the U.S. proposals to solve the deportee problem continue. Speaking to our radio, Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the six U.S. proposals which the Palestinian side has approved and which the Israelis have rejected are being discussed by the U.S. Consul in Jerusalem, Molly Williamson, and Palestinian negotiators from the occupied territories, who inform the PLO regularly on the proceedings of these negotiations.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the door is still open for a possible solution of the deportee problem, which the Arab side regards as the main obstacle to the resumption of the peace talks scheduled in late April.

On another level, an authorized Palestinian source revealed that Israel rejected three of the six U.S. proposals and objected to the wording of another two. The Israelis objected to including Jerusalem in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and to the proposal concerning a halt to the deportation policy, demanding the addition of the phrase: Except in matters of security.

Israel also rejected points pertaining to accelerating the return of the deportees within the framework of UN Security Council 799 and in accordance with a time frame agreed to by the two sides. Israel refused to return a great number of persons deported since 1967 and rejected another point related to respect for human rights in the occupied territory.

PLO Seeks Improved Terms for Peace Talks

JN0103112393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is seeking improved terms of reference for peace talks with Israel before the resumption of the stalled peace process based on a six-point compromise deal worked out by the U.S., senior PLO sources said Sunday [28 February].

While the PLO has given its agreement in principle for the compromise, Israel is resisting some of the phraseology of the document, which is aimed at ending the crisis sparked by the Jewish state's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians to South Lebanon in December.

The main stipulation sought by the PLO, which guides the Palestinian negotiating team, is an Israeli commitment to withdraw from the Arab territories the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, according to the sources.

Under the present terms of reference issued by the United States, there is no Israeli commitment to withdrawal. In fact Israel has not even agreed that Resolution 242 applies to the Israeli-Palestinian track of negotiations while it has undertaken that the 1967 resolution does apply in its talks with Syria.

The six-point compromise proposal over the expellees includes a reference to resolutions 242 and 338 in what was seen by observers as an American gesture to appease the Palestinians and entice them back to the negotiating table.

By the same token, the PLO is seeking political gains out of the crisis over the expellees, trying to secure an Israeli commitment to 242—something that has eluded eight rounds of bilateral talks launched since the Madrid conference.

Such a commitment would also help the mainstream PLO leadership to placate hardline Palestinian factions which oppose the peace talks saying the present terms of reference are not in favour of Palestinian rights.

The Palestinian demands were given to Mr. Christopher last week and the inclusion of some of the points in the compromise formula was seen as American acknowledgement of the Palestinian position.

The Palestinians have informed that they would be attending the resumed peace talks if Israel agreement to the six points and made the necessary commitments. This position was relayed to Molly Williamson, the American consul-general in Arab East Jerusalem, at a meeting Friday, the sources said.

Israel, coming under American and international pressure to end the expellee crisis, has agreed to such a commitment but has balked at formally including it as part of the compromise proposal, the PLO sources told the Jordan Times.

Palestinians also demanding renewed American assurances that the original terms of reference would not be violated by Israel in future negotiations.

"It is necessary to repair the violated original terms of reference, and we need to get additional clarifications from the U.S. on its role as a sponsor and how it intends to make Israel respect those principles," said Palestinian negotiator Samir 'Abdallah.

American retraction of its approval of certain points in the document after Israel rejected their inclusion was viewed by Palestinians as an "unencouraging start."

Palestinians also face counter suggestions from Israel on ending the expellees crisis and get the peace talks started in April as announced by the U.S. and Russia last week.

It is proposing a phased return of the expellees in compliance with Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for an immediate return of the expellees now stranded in South Lebanon, and the return of a limited number of Palestinians expelled since 1967, and measures to improve the human rights situation of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

But the catch is, according to the sources, Israel is not willing to undertake these commitments in public. The PLO has not responded to the suggestions.

U.S. Terror Charge Seen as Means of Pressure

PM2602171593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 93 p 3

['Ali Salih report: "Hamas: Accusing PLO of Terrorism Is Way of Exerting Pressure"]

[Text] London—A highly placed Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] source has described the statements allegedly made by the U.S. secretary of state during his meeting with a Palestinian delegation as pressure on the PLO for a return to the peace negotiations.

Warren Christopher was quoted as saying during his meeting with the members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, headed by Faysal al-Husayni, in occupied Jerusalem the day before yesterday that "the PLO is classified as terrorist in the sense that it is a part of an organization [as published] with terrorist tendencies, and the United States has no intention of starting a dialogue with it at present."

The source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "this charge is a form of pressure on the PLO to make it agree to participate in the next round of peace negotiations in Washington."

The sources added: "If anything, that indicates that the Americans still place Israeli interests above all other

considerations." He added: "I believe that the terrorism charge reflects a desire to use it against other parties."

He also said that "We feel that a deal is in the making to circumvent the deportees issue, which is obstructing the resumption of the negotiations, but the issue will in the end remain in the hands of those whose decision it is, namely the deportees themselves, who still insist on collective repatriation and on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799."

The source confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "Hamas has so far received no offer regarding the deportees from the Palestinians or any other party. It (Hamas) still insists on the full implementation of Resolution 799."

'Arafat Arrives in Algiers, To Meet Ali Kafi

LD2802134293 Algiers APS in English 1326 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Algiers, 28/02/93 (APS)—President of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, arrived Sunday [28 February] to Algiers.

'Arafat was welcomed at his arrival to "Houari Boumedienne" international airport by Belaid Abdesselam, head of government.

He will be audienced, during his stay in Algiers, by the president of the Higher State Committee (HCE), Ali Kafi.

Comments After Meeting Ali Kafi

LD2802200393 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Statement by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat after a meeting with Ali Kafi, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council, in Algiers on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] This visit comes in the wake of the new developments and conditions in our area after the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

I briefed Mr. Kafi on the results of this visit, both in connection with the region in general and the Palestinian situation. I explained to him the six points which were presented to us by the U. S. side after they had been approved by the Israeli side. The Israeli side then went back on these points and this made the situation more complex. This exposed the peace talks to more dangers and more difficulties, in addition to the other original difficulty—namely, the question of the Palestinian deportees. Concerning this issue, Israel has so far not complied, or rather Israel has refused to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 799.

'Sources' on Emergency Cordon States Meeting

NC2702120993 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1030 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo confirmed that the PLO is now holding urgent contacts with all the main Arab parties involved in the peace process (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon) to prepare for an emergency meeting of the five cordon states in Damascus next week to discuss the final stand on Arab participation in the Washington talks in general and the Palestinian delegation's participation in particular.

The meeting will also include an overall assessment of the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region and the results of his meeting in Brussels yesterday with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The written guarantees that Christopher gave to al-Shar', in which he confirmed that the United States has achieved important results with the Israeli Government in the past two days—particularly Israel's agreement to resolve the deportees issue by allowing a group of deportees to return in mid-March and the rest in stages, will also be discussed.

The Palestinian sources said: The U.S. secretary of state also handed al-Shar' a number of guarantees that confirm Israel's commitment not to carry out any new deportations this year in order to give the peace process the opportunity to achieve tangible progress on all four Israeli-Arab fronts (with the Palestinians, Syrians, Jordanians, and Lebanese).

The sources also said that al-Shar' is expected to send an urgent preliminary report in the next few hours to each Arab country detailing his meeting with Christopher yesterday. The report is in preparation for the cordon states meeting, which will include a detailed briefing on all the guarantees and will allow each Arab country to give their view on participating in the Washington talks.

An AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY correspondent has learned that a high level Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, will travel to Russia in the next few hours. He will meet with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to be briefed on the recent Russian-U.S. moves to resolve the deportees issue and will obtain Russian guarantees that this problem will be resolved before the talks are resumed. The Russian foreign minister will also give the Palestinian delegation an invitation to attend the Washington talks in April. He will attempt to convince the Palestinians to rescind their decision, making participation in these negotiations contingent on solving the deportees issue, particularly after Christopher told Kozyrev in Brussels the day before yesterday that Israel has agreed to make a number of concessions to the Palestinian and Syrian sides in order to give impetus to the peace process.

'Sources' on Christopher Talks, U.S. Contacts

NC2702145593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have stressed that the U.S. Administration is currently holding intensive contacts with all parties concerned with the Middle East peace process, particularly the Palestinians, in a bid to give momentum to the peace process in the region.

The same sources told MENA that messages are exchanged between the U.S. Administration and the PLO via a number of Arab and international capitals, particularly Cairo and Moscow, as well as through the Palestinian delegation participating in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. The sources said a PLO delegation will soon visit Moscow for talks with senior Russian officials on the Middle East peace process. The sources added that the Palestinian leadership is currently discussing the results of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour and his contacts with all parties in the region to decide whether or not to resume the peace talks.

The Palestinian sources described Christopher's tour as an important one that enabled him to personally learn about the positions of all parties to the peace process and the complications resulting from the expulsion of 418 Palestinians from their homeland. The sources added that the U.S. Secretary of State's emphasis that he, along with his Russian counterpart, will call for the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks on 19 April indicates that he reached an agreement with the Israeli administration to solve the problem of the deportees before that date, thus enabling the Palestinians to take part in the talks. The sources said that in their meeting with Christopher in Jerusalem last week, the Palestinian negotiators handed Christopher three memoranda. The first concerns the question of the deportees and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799. The second deals with confidence-building measures between the Palestinians and Israelis, the need for Israel to stop the series of murders and collective punishment of Palestinians, and the high taxes imposed on them. The third relates to the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the impasse reached in the last round of negotiations.

The same sources said the Palestinian side also called for the need to reconsider the composition of the Palestinian delegation participating in the peace talks to include figures from inside and outside the occupied territories. They also called for opening a direct dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration to give impetus to the peace march and for Jerusalem to be considered an occupied territory so that the Security Council resolutions apply to it.

The sources said the U.S. secretary of state assured the Palestinians that his country will be more actively involved in the Middle East peace-making efforts than the former U.S. Administration and that it will act as a full partner the same way former U.S. President Jimmy Carter did in the peace talks between Egypt and Israel. The sources pointed out that the United States emphasized that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which until now Israel has been reluctant to accept and implement, will constitute the terms of reference [marji'iyah] in the peace process.

Delegation Head Sums Up Meetings With Christopher

TA2602150493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 26 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by Khalil Tuma]

[Text] Jerusalem—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has explained to AL-FAJR that despite the generally good atmosphere that prevailed at the two meetings held on Tuesday [23 February] and Wednesday in Jerusalem between the U.S. secretary of state and a number of Palestinian notables, no definite results were achieved that might pave the way for the resumption of negotiations. There is need for further clarification of the U.S. stance on the deportee issue.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that apart from solving the deportee issue, which is a condition that must be fulfilled in order for the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table, the Palestinians want to go back to a peace process with credibility.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the experience of one year of negotiations has shown that the Israeli stance is not committed to the terms of reference of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in the peace process and that the U.S. sponsor, which is declaring its wish to be a full partner in the negotiations, should commit Israel to these terms of reference. This was conveyed to the U.S. secretary.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that the Palestinians explained to U.S. Secretary of State Christopher that if Israel does not stop settlement activity in the occupied territories, including Arab Jerusalem, the Palestinians will not be able to participate in the negotiating process, because Israel's insistence on settlement means determining in advance the final status of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the Palestinians expressed to the U.S. secretary their fear that the U.S.-Israeli agreement on the deportee issue might have bestowed legitimacy on deportation and ignored the fact that deportation is a violation of human rights.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that it was explained to Secretary Christopher that the Palestinians will not abandon the negotiations, but they want a peace process with credibility. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi noted that Christopher showed understanding to the Palestinian presentation

and said that he had come to listen and learn. Consequently, the Palestinians hope that the meetings with Christopher will enable the U.S. Administration to adopt an evenhanded and more positive and active position than before.

'Abd-Rabbuh Views Withdrawal of U.S. Proposals

NC2602140493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has announced that the PLO notified the United States and Russia that peace negotiations cannot be resumed until Israel aligns itself with the proposals the United States put forward to the Palestinian delegation to solve the deportees problem and changes its stance at the negotiations.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who chairs the PLO's media department, told a MENA correspondent in Tunis that the obstacle Israel places before the peace process remains. He said the Israeli and American withdrawal of the proposals put forward to the Palestinian delegation by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during their meeting in Jerusalem the day before yesterday, proposals that the PLO approved, have taken things back to square one. The ninth round of peace negotiations cannot be resumed until Israel attaches itself to these points, he said.

He explained that Warren Christopher put forward a set of ideas to the Palestinian delegation during a meeting in Jerusalem the day before yesterday, after obtaining the Rabin government's approval of the proposals. These proposals aimed to solve the deportees problem and resume the peace march. One hour after the meeting, the Palestinian delegation told Christopher that the PLO agrees to and welcomes these proposals, he said.

'Abd-Rabbuh said the PLO was surprised yesterday that Israel returned to its elusive approach. After the PLO had welcomed the American proposals, Israel withdrew its earlier consent. Israel thought the PLO would reject the American proposals, he remarked. Learning that the PLO consented to and welcomed the proposals, Israel announced that it accepts them in principle but rejects their full stipulations, particularly those concerning Israel's abstention from future deportations and its compliance with Resolution 799.

The Palestinian official noted that Israel assumed that position after Christopher left the region. The PLO was later told by the American side that the United States could not put pressure on Israel to change the American proposals that Israel approved but on which it then rescinded, 'Abd-Rabbuh stated.

'Abd-Rabbuh pointed out that Israeli reservations on the points included in the American proposals aim only to get things back to the American-Israeli formula providing for the return of 101 deportees and the reduction of the others' terms of exile to one year, not two. He said the PLO rejected these proposals as an attempt to circumvent UN Security Council Resolution 799.

The PLO official said he was surprised the United States should initiate a dialogue with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in the occupied territories, when it announces that it has no plans to resume dialogue with the PLO.

He said he hoped the dialogue between the United States and Hamas, which rejects peace negotiations, would lead to positive results and ultimately solve the deportees problem. He said the PLO will closely follow this development in the American position.

Hamas Leader on Meetings With U.S. Officials

TA2602155993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Feb 93 pp 1, 3

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Amman—In light of news agency reports about meetings between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] officials and officials of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, AL-QUDS contacted Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, who answered AL-QUDS' questions, saying:

Several meetings took place recently between Hamas officials in Jordan and officials of the U.S. Embassy in Amman. The first and second meetings were devoted to acquainting the U.S. side with Hamas' viewpoint on the deportee issue. Hamas stressed the need to implement Security Council Resolution 799 in full. It explained to the U.S. side that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin committed a grave mistake by deporting the Palestinians and he has to pay the price for this mistake. We should not find for him excuses and justifications to extricate himself from this difficult predicament.

Nazzal added: As for the third meeting, it was held to respond to the U.S. act of placing Hamas on the terrorist list. We explained to the U.S. side that Hamas is not a terrorist organization, because it has not committed any acts against U.S. interests or even against Americans, bearing in mind that U.S. law considers anyone who attacks a U.S. citizen or U.S. interests as a terrorist.

In answer to the question as to whether these meetings could be construed as an attempt to circumvent the PLO's legitimacy, since the United States agreed to meet with Hamas while refusing to do so with the PLO, Nazzal said:

This is not circumvention. It is an attempt to clarify our viewpoint. Moreover, the United States categorizes the PLO as a terrorist organization. As I pointed out, it derives this perspective from U.S. law. As for Hamas, even from the U.S. viewpoint, Hamas is not a terrorist organization because it has not committed any acts

against U.S. interests or U.S. citizens. Even its operations against Israelis have been conducted inside the occupied territories.

Nazzal added: U.S. claims that Hamas is a terrorist organization are baseless and weak pretexts and an attempt to pressure Hamas.

On his expectations regarding the deportees, Nazzal said: Ultimately, they will return. The question is the method by which this will be done. The ball now is in the Israeli court.

'Arafat Discusses Peace Prospects, Hamas

AU2602160093 Vienna NEWS in German 25 Feb 93 pp 54-56

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Karl Wendl in Tunis; date not given: "Exclusive Interview With 'Arafat"]

[Excerpts] [Wendl] Bruno Kreisky was the first politician who did not treat you as a terrorist but as a politician, and Austria was the first country to recognize Palestine as a state.

['Arafat] We will never forget Austria's role. Our people owe Austria an incredible amount. Bruno Kreisky was a great statesman, and it was an honor for me to be his friend. Through him, I got to know numerous European figures and representatives of the Socialist International—Willy Brandt, Mario Soares, and Bernt Carlsson. Kreisky contributed more than anyone else to the emergence of our people on the map. [passage omitted]

[Wendl] When you were elected president of the "independent state of Palestine" in Algiers in 1988, people in the occupied territories danced in the streets. Today fierce fighting is again taking place, and the peace talks are in extreme danger. Will the same kind of terrorism that prevails in the Balkans break out in the Middle East, too?

['Arafat] Yes. I repeatedly warned that the whole Middle East will plunge into anarchy if peace talks fail. This is what is happening now. The region is on the way to Balkanization. Israel's obstinacy and its determination not to end the Palestinian suffering is to blame for that. Progress should have been achieved within one year. Sixteen months have now passed, and we still do not have any specific results. The Israelis continue their old game—pretending to hold talks.

[Wendl] Does the United States support them in these efforts?

['Arafat] Yes, indirectly. The Bush administration initiated the peace negotiations after the Gulf war. Unfortunately, however, they wasted opportunities and played with false cards. They offered credit guarantees to the Israelis to induce them to change their settlement policy. Yet what is Israel doing? It is constantly building new villages on our territory. It ignores UN Security Council resolutions and refuses to discuss Jerusalem, despite the fact that Bush's initiative was clear: Land for peace was the formula adopted at the time. This clearly includes the withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

[Wendl] Yitzhaq Rabin defeated Shamir in recent elections because he promised peace with the Palestinians...

['Arafat] Shamir lost the elections because of his radical course. Rabin is continuing his policy. He uses the same methods as his predecessor. He constantly attacks the PLO and refuses to talk with us. With whom does he want to make peace if he does not negotiate with us? With a fata morgana? He does not want peace but our capitulation. That will never happen. We are persevering like camels.

[Wendl] Will this lead to new fighting and new terrorism?

['Arafat] Not to terrorism. Yet, the world is facing the most gigantic popular uprising in modern times—the intifadah. Despite the disastrous material and social living conditions, our people have continued this uprising for six years. We are fighting with stones and wooden truncheons, and the Israelis reply with the most modern weapons. In only two attacks they destroyed 91 houses and killed 13 children. The Security Council ignores that. Are we fair game just because the United States protects Israel? Are there one, two, or three yardsticks in international law? One for the Palestinians, one for the Arabs, and one for the Israelis, one for Somalia and a different one for Bosnia, one for Iraq, and another one for Libya?

[Wendl] The radical Muslim organization Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is a new opponent of the PLO. Are you afraid that your moderate course might be ruined?

['Arafat] One must always look at the reason for radicalism. The world has always used a double standard in its arguments. That is the breeding ground for radical movements. The more children are killed, the more houses are destroyed, the more of our people are killed, the stronger such currents will become.

[Wendl] How many votes would Hamas receive in Palestinian elections?

['Arafat] Last year 33 limited elections were held. Hamas received 5 percent of the vote. Thus, the results are clear. We are proud of our democracy, and Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is like a brother to me.

[Wendl] Despite the fact that Hamas, which is supported by Iran, fights fiercely against your Fatah?

['Arafat] Voltaire once stated: I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. The PLO has unconditionally supported the interests of the 400 Hamas members that were deported, in spite of the fact that they are allegedly supported by the Gulf states

and Iran. They are Palestinians, and as president I am responsible for all Palestinians. Deportation is a war crime.

[Wendl] You have over 500 advisers, but wrong decisions continue to be made. During the Gulf war you kissed Saddam Husayn. During the coup in Moscow you supported Gorbachev's opponents.

['Arafat] That is nonsense. I did not support the putschists. As far as the Gulf war is concerned, Saddam Husayn is my friend, just like all other Arab heads of state. I wanted to prevent the war, and when the war began, I wanted to end it by all possible means. It is slowly becoming clear that my policy was the most farsighted. No Arab scored a victory in this war. U.S. sources have also admitted since that the losses of the Arabs totaled $624 billion in this war. These sums would cover the entire debts of the Third World, excluding Mexico and Brazil.

[Wendl] What have been the financial losses of the PLO due to your support for Saddam? Have your Arab partners stopped payments to the PLO completely?

['Arafat] The Gulf war had a dramatic impact on our people. We suffered the most substantial losses. The richest Palestinian community in Kuwait alone (300,000 Palestinians were expelled after the war) had to leave investments behind involving $12.6 billion. Support for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank was stopped completely. The PLO is being boycotted materially and financially for obvious political considerations.

[Wendl] You allegedly supported Erich Honecker's departure for Chile with a generous check.

['Arafat] I would have liked to support Honecker. If Erich Honecker asks me to help him, I will do so unconditionally. We are loyal people. Under Honecker, thousands of Palestinian students were trained in the GDR and thousands received medical treatment. We were also given economic support. We cannot forget him, so how could we leave him in the lurch? The worst thing which an Arab can be accused of is disloyalty. I do not forget my friends, and Erich Honecker is my friend.

[Wendl] You were considered a confirmed bachelor, a lone wolf, for many decades. You have married your economic adviser Suha al-Tawil, 26, who is a Christian. Why did you change your mind all of a sudden?

['Arafat] I finally found a woman who accepts me and who can endure my way of life. In the past my whole life was a struggle. I did not have time for private affairs. You see, it is one o'clock in the morning, and I am sitting here and talking with a journalist. I feel sorry for my wife.

[Wendl] Do you want children?

['Arafat] If time permits. By the way, I have children. All Palestinian children are my children.

[Wendl] How do you feel when you are addressed as president and a freedom fighter after the many years during which you were branded as a terrorist?

['Arafat] Only my enemies kept the lie about terrorism alive. I was always a symbol of political resistance.

'Arafat Interviewed on Current Issues

JN0103093993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Mar 93 p 26

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sa'd al-Bazzaz, chief editor of Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH, in Sanaa on 21 February]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Bazzaz] In your CNN interview, you said that President Saddam Husayn has encouraged you to go ahead with the peace process. What was the background of that statement? Was this the first time?

['Arafat] No, when I visited President Saddam the first time in February 1992, when the peace process was in its early stages, I spoke with him about this process and its dimensions. He told me: "Look Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] I am with what the Palestinian leadership chooses, so go ahead with God's blessing, and may God grant you success." He repeated the same position this time, and said that we have to understand the new international equation. This was part of our talk on the new world order, its interactions and results.

[Al-Bazzaz] Your Excellency, is there anything new regarding the $50 million which Iraq decided to grant to the UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] from its expected oil sales?

['Arafat] So far we have not received approval. The big countries do not pay for UNRWA, and as of now, they have not approved the Iraqi donation. We hope the United Nations will approve it, otherwise, the Palestinian people will face a difficult situation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bazzaz] Are you still awaiting the resumption of dialogue with the United States?

['Arafat] Former President Bush promised to resume the dialogue with the PLO, and we are still waiting for President Bill Clinton to fulfill that promise. Everyone should know that no peace can be realized if the Palestinians are not part of it.

[Al-Bazzaz] How long will calm continue in face of the Israeli violence?

['Arafat] I say to Rabin: Patience has limits, and violence begets violence. Everything has limits. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bazzaz] Can you tell me how far your efforts between Baghdad and Cairo have reached? Have you received final answers?

['Arafat] The efforts have not yet finished. It is too early to announce anything now, but the response was positive in Baghdad and Cairo.

[Al-Bazzaz] Don't you think that the brothers in Egypt are showing some flexibility because of the return of the Iranian threat to the arena?

['Arafat] No, no, it is not based on this concept at all. It is based on the view of the new world order, since the Arab nation is facing threats, and any country which tries to stand on its own feet will be kept busy with its internal affairs.

[Al-Bazzaz] Here is Yemen in front of us. It has unity, democracy, and oil. Do you have any fears about Yemen?

['Arafat] No, but there is a difference between fear and worry. In this context, I have no fears, but sometimes I am worried. I do not have fears about this country and its people. How can one have fears about a country which was the source of the Islamic conquests? [passage omitted]

[Al-Bazzaz] Let us return to Palestinian affairs. When will the PLO admit Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement] as one of its factions?

['Arafat] Hamas is welcome as soon as it gets rid of the external influence in the Palestinian arena. We have fought hard for the independence of the Palestinian decisionmaking both inside and outside the occupied homeland. First of all, we should believe in the independence of our decisionmaking. I have said in the past that we do not tolerate the custodianship of the Arabs, so will we tolerate the custodianship of non-Arabs?

[Al-Bazzaz] You recall that over the past three months, you said several times that the Palestinian-Israeli track in the negotiations has not gone beyond zero point. Is this still true?

['Arafat] It is below zero. The time set by the documents of the peace process has expired, and four months have passed since then without realizing anything on this track. The result is below zero then. [passage omitted]

'Ashrawi on Issues Raised in Christopher Meeting

TA2602185693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesman of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by Yoni Ben-Menahem; in 'Ashrawi's home on 26 February—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] What, exactly, are the obstacles? What has happened to the U.S. proposals that Christopher presented?

['Ashrawi] The ideas and issues which were raised during the discussions and meetings with Christopher were fundamental and principles issues. They relate to the illegitimacy of deportation and the need for Israel's commitment not to resort to deportation, the need to implement Resolution 799 or the need for Israel's compliance with Security Council resolutions, as well as the adoption of real and effective steps regarding human rights violations in the occupied territories. These issues are still pending. The U.S. side tried to give guarantees and assurances on its own behalf, but so far we have not received the Israeli commitments required to change this situation.

[Ben-Menahem] Were the U.S. proposals made in coordination with the Israeli side?

['Ashrawi] As far as we gathered, the U.S. position was confident that it would be able to reach agreement with the Israeli side.

[Ben-Menahem] Before leaving the country, did U.S. Secretary of State Christopher inform the Palestinian side of the Israeli reply to those proposals?

['Ashrawi] He believed that these issues could be resolved quickly and comprehensively in a way that would satisfy the Palestinian side. He was confident that he could bring about these results. However, until now we have not seen any result from the Israeli side. Perhaps an attempt is under way to effect a change in the position. We do not know. However, in my view the responsibility now falls on the Israeli side because in order for us to go to the talks, all pending problems have to be resolved and Israel's future conduct in the occupied territories must be determined, especially with regard to deportation and human rights. We have to obtain specific commitments on the sovereignty of law in the region and on human rights in the occupied territories.

[Ben-Menahem] Some Palestinian delegation members intend to travel abroad, to Tunis. What is the aim of this visit?

['Ashrawi] The aim is a comprehensive assessment of Christopher's visit and the points raised during the meetings. There were fundamental and basic issues which must be discussed. Also the nature of future Palestinian-U.S. relations and the Palestinian strategy have to be determined. There will also be a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the occupied territories and the future of the negotiating process.

[Ben-Menahem] What about coordination with the Arab states participating in the peace process?

['Ashrawi] It is expected that a session or meetings by the Arab foreign ministers will be held in the near future, within days. They will discuss the aspects of Secretary Christopher's visit and its effect on the negotiating process. I believe that a decision will be made to respond collectively to the invitation by all the Arab sides.

[Ben-Menahem] Thank you.

'Ashrawi on Prospects for Peace Talks Resumption

LD2602220793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation at the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that the Palestinians will not attend the negotiations so long as all the Palestinian deportees are not returned to their homes. However, she expressed her optimism about the possibility of settling the issue before the resumption of the talks. This is the gist of what 'Ashrawi said in a telephone interview with our correspondent in London.

[Correspondent] We had the following telephone interview with Dr. 'Ashrawi from Ramallah, in the occupied West Bank:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Dr. Hanan, we have learned that you have received a letter from U.S. President Clinton. This has revived hopes about a detente and the resumption of the negotiations. Could you give us some idea of the contents of this letter?

['Ashrawi] We needed this formal and frank assurance from the new administration. We also needed to prevent Israel from attempting to deceive the authority and the foundations and from creating a situation incompatible with them [sentence as heard]. We also needed to guarantee the intervention of the United States and its effective and responsible role in its capacity as host state and as the superpower now.

[Correspondent] Can we say that you will be present in Washington on 4 April?

['Ashrawi] No, this will not be sufficient because we want clear commitments from Israel regarding the illegality of the deportation and Israel's commitment not to resort to deportation in the future. We also want clear, frank, and effective measures regarding human rights issues in the occupied territories, Israel's attitudes to the negotiation process, and also practical measures for the return of the Palestinians deported since 1967. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Talks With Christopher

NC2702090993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Gaza, by Sihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, you met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his tour of the region, which was called the tour of exploration and confirmation. For you as Palestinians, what has happened on the deportees issue and on the resumption of the peace process?

['Abd-al-Shafi] For our part, we explained our position on the deportees issue. Briefly, we asked that they be returned to their homeland in accordance with Resolution 799 and stressed that our demand stems from our belief that the deportation decision was an illegal act and a violation of the human rights principle. We also underlined the need for Israel to halt such measures. We underlined these principles. As for the negotiations process, which made no progress last year, we explained the reasons for this deadlock in the negotiations and underlined the need for an active and effective role for the U.S. and Russian cosponsors because just helping is not enough.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Haydar, did the United States show understanding on the deportees issue during the meeting with Christopher and did he propose any specific solutions?

['Abd-al-Shafi] My impression is that the secretary of state really wants to understand the existing problems very well. Our meeting with him was good but nothing specific was reached. The talks were general but I believe that the atmosphere was generally positive.

[Abu-al-Majd] But some reports said that the Palestinian side handed a memorandum to the secretary of state. What did it say?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The memorandum detailed our stand on the deportation issue. Regarding the negotiations, we pointed out the importance of abiding by the point of reference, that is Resolution 242, and the need for Israel to halt its violations of human rights principles. That was what we demanded in general. We highlighted Israel's violations and its repeated attacks that now include blowing up houses on the pretext of pursuing wanted men. We emphasized that the citizens in the occupied territories do in fact need protection from these inhuman practices at the hands of the occupation forces.

[Abu-al-Majd] Has the U.S. secretary asked you to resume the peace talks before the deportees issue is solved and do you expect a solution to this problem before the peace process is resumed?

['Abd-al-Shafi] This is in fact our stand. True, the secretary focused on the importance of resuming the negotiations. For our part, we do attach importance to this matter, but the important thing is that we must feel that Israel is showing a reasonable response to the deportees issue and that it is complying with the UN resolution as well as with Resolution 242, the point of reference, on the negotiations. These are the things that we have demanded that Israel comply with clearly and publicly, otherwise we cannot go. The peace process must have credibility.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, you said that the U.S. secretary of state showed understanding of the Palestinian view of the peace process. Do you think this understanding will turn into practical, positive steps concerning the deportees crisis and the entire peace

operation once Christopher submits a report on his Middle East tour to the U.S. President?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Yes, as I have said, I had a positive impression of the U.S. secretary of state's character. I believe he will make sincere efforts to persuade Israel to be flexible on the deportees issue and on the negotiations. My conviction, or rather, my impression is that the man is sincere and he is truly seeking to overcome the existing problems and he appreciates the importance of resuming the peace talks.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Haydar, will you go to the negotiations if the deportees crisis is not completely resolved?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No. In fact our position is firm: We will not go to the negotiations unless there is a solution to the deportees crisis that is acceptable to us and Israel implements this solution without difficulties.

[Abu-al-Majd] There is news that a proposal was made during the U.S. secretary of state's Middle East tour providing for the return of a third of the deportees, sending another third to Saudi Arabia, and the rest to Morocco. Did he make such a proposal to you?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No, he did not make such a proposal.

[Abu-al-Majd] What proposal did he make on this issue?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The U.S. secretary of state spoke of the publicly announced Israeli-U.S. agreement. We said it was unacceptable to us because Israel is supposed to implement the UN Security Council resolution. Simply speaking, what impediment is there to its implementation without beating around the bush? We do not want the return of the deportees to involve a legitimization of deportation as such.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Haydar, do you think that another Washington-Tel Aviv deal on the deportees is in the offing?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is difficult for me to say. All I can say is that the secretary of state is very interested in resuming the negotiations. He knows this can only occur if there is an acceptable solution to the deportees crisis. Hence I believe he will make additional efforts with Israel to solve the problem.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, thank you.

['Abd-al-Shafi] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Evaluates Christopher's Visit

NC0103092793 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. Faysal Husayni: Welcome.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Let us start this dialogue with your evaluation of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East region, during which he held two meetings with Palestinian personalities in which you participated.

[Al-Husayni] In fact, during Mr. Christopher's visit we found an interest in and an awareness of the current issues. I can say that his awareness is relative, as this is his first visit. However, we did notice that there is interest. At the end of his tour, we reached an understanding on some basic principles. We learned from the Americans that Israel had also accepted this principle of understanding, which consists of six points, four of which pertain to the Israelis. Based on this, there was an optimistic atmosphere that continued until Thursday [25 February] morning, when we found out that the Israelis were still placing some obstacles and problems about two major points.

[Al-Jundi] Can you tell us a bit more about the most important points of the principle of understanding you mentioned?

[Al-Husayni] There are six points. The first deals with the United States, which specifies that deportation is illegal and rejected. The subsequent points are that there should be a clear Israeli commitment to stop deportations; that Israel announce it will comply with Resolution 799 by taking certain steps; and that Israel return a number of the deportees expelled since 1967. Israel is also required to take a number of steps to close the gaps it created in issues pertaining to human rights' violations and its practices in the Palestinian arena. After that, the United States is asked to reconfirm Resolutions 242 and 338, the letter of assurances, and land for peace. In addition, Israel should confirm that it is committed to Resolution 242. These are the points Israel was required to accept. It is now questioning the second and third points, which require it to comply with Resolution 799 and end the policy of deportations.

[Al-Jundi] If the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Rabin commits itself to ending the policy of deportation while leaving the situation of the current deportees as is, would you consider this reason enough to resume the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, part of the agreement deals with rescheduling the deportees' return, an increase in the number of deportees to return in the coming stage, and some progress on the current Israeli stand. Therefore, as I said, there are some very important issues that should be implemented. First and foremost of these is the agreement on principles that was reached recently.

[Al-Jundi] What is the approximate timetable of this rescheduling?

[Al-Husayni] I cannot talk about any specific dates, but the rescheduling should be appropriate, especially if there is an agreement on the principle.

[Al-Jundi] Did you get a glimpse of a somewhat different U.S. attitude in your talks with Christopher compared to the former administration?

[Al-Husayni] I can safely say that the general policy of the United States continues to be linked to its general policy, based on Resolution 242 and land for peace. However, the new developments stemming from Christopher's visit—perhaps because of the heated situation—led to a feeling that Christopher is truly exerting an unprecedented U.S. effort.

[Al-Jundi] Egyptian action to support Palestine continues. The visit to Israel by Dr. al-Baz and Dr. Rida Shihatah falls within this framework. How do you view this visit by the two directors of the President's Office for Political Affairs? How do you see the information and follow-up resulting from this visit?

[Al-Husayni] I believe this visit is important. Egypt can play a big role, especially in light of relations it currently has with all parties. We hope this Egyptian delegation will be able to achieve some concrete results, such as affirming Israel's acceptance of the six points and the specific principles in them, and beginning to apply these principles in practice so that the peace process can begin progressing successfully.

[Al-Jundi] You recently received a message from U.S. President Clinton. What were the contents of this message?

[Al-Husayni] The message confirmed that the United States and the new administration are committed to the peace process and that they believe the peace process is a means, not an end in itself. It also urged us to continue this process. In addition, it expressed appreciation for the Palestinian stand that emerged through political alertness and flexibility exhibited since the beginning of the negotiating process.

[Al-Jundi] Some claim that you, more so than the other members of the Palestinian side, strongly object to resuming the peace process as long as the deportees' crisis is not resolved. What is your response to such claims?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, the Palestinian stand is united, whether among the members of the delegation or the general Palestinian stand of the PLO. There are no differences between them. There are always deliberations, attempts to find solutions, and efforts to restore the march. In the final analysis, however, there is one Palestinian opinion.

[Al-Jundi] Dear brothers, to conclude this dialogue, we thank Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation taking part in the Arab-Israeli talks. We thank you and always welcome you on our show.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Possible Resolution of Deportees Issue Viewed

LD2602230993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher felt a little annoyed or nearly ran out of patience as a result of everything he heard about the deportations issue, one wonders what he would say to the deportees if he met with them during their holiday in the frozen Lebanese mountains. Warren Christopher was quite right to be annoyed, because no one on the Arab side can forget this issue as the American official would wish them to do.

What annoyed Christopher even more was his discovery that the Arab protest was not merely a gesture and that Arab anger and rejection of the deportation operation were genuine and serious. This was strongly manifested in all the Arab capitals.

When he arrived in Jerusalem and met with the Palestinian delegation he found their stand to be even more inflexible. The attachment of the Palestinian people to the deportations issue has made it impossible to resume the negotiations before the deportees return. If all the parties are searching for a way out which will give the negotiations a chance to resume and if Israel still insists on rejecting UN Security Council Resolution 799 and does not allow the deportees to return, Christopher's words at the news conference he held with the Israeli prime minister after the end of their talks carry some ideas that can be discussed. Instead of the return of a quarter of the deportees now and the rest to follow at the end of the year, there is a proposal that advocates their return within a timetable and within a maximum period of six months; in this case the U.S.-Israeli agreement would be ignored and the Palestinian demand for the deportees' return as a single group would be dropped. This arrangement would be guaranteed by the United Nations and the United States would undertake the implementation of the formula.

This is a way out which would save face for these sides. It also makes a return to the negotiations possible and gives an impetus to the peace process once again. All sides would then agree to return to the negotiations and the peace process would continue, despite the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of peace.

If Christopher managed to break the deadlock and got the negotiations moving again he would actually be performing a miracle. The question that is beng asked is this: Has Christopher succeeded in persuading the Israeli leaders to let the deportees return under a new formula acceptable to the sides concerned? If this were to be case then all the sides would return to the negotiations in time for the coming session without hesitation. If no such

success were forthcoming then this would lead to deadlocked negotiations and to postponing them to the later part of this year. This would not be in the interest of any party. Indeed it would render the conditions in the area ripe for an explosion once again.

The gleam of hope that has emerged so far from Christopher's visit and the U.S. announcement that it wants to play the role of full partner in the talks have prompted Israel to think that this means a return to the diplomacy of the former President Carter under whom Christopher once served. He had the credit for freeing the American hostages detained in Tehran. American participation would mean intervening in the negotiations and putting forward new ideas whenever Washington felt that the parties were about to reach deadlock and would mean applying pressure in order to reach a solution of the middle way.

If Warren Christopher's statements have a traditional diplomatic character and bring nothing new, they constitute the beginning of a new era and new intentions in favor of consolidating the peace process. Despite our deep awareness of the biased and unjust policy of the United States, what has been going on during the negotiations relies on our ability to (?to talk) and maneuver so that we may get to the point of attaining and recovering our rights.

U.S.-Russian Agreement on Peace Talks Viewed

LD2702000193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, only hours after bringing his Middle East tour to a conclusion and setting off for Geneva, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said, after meeting with his Russian opposite number Andrey Kozyrev, that he conveyed the results of his tour of the area to Kozyrev. He also stated that the United States and Russia agreed to send invitations to the various parties taking part in the peace process asking them to resume the negotiations in Washington in April.

Before that, the media carried reports [word indistinct] attributed to Palestinian, Israeli, and U.S. sources about proposals put forward by Christopher to the Palestinian and Israeli sides involving an Israeli undertaking not to resort to deportations in the future, to guarantee the repatriation of all the deportees, and to respect human rights in the occupied territories, and a confirmation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for the peace process.

Conflicting accounts were divided between reports that Israel had rejected these proposals and reports that Israel is considering them. These new developments gave rise to a number of questions. They led to greater ambiguity, both about the nature of the talks that Christopher conducted in the area, and about the nature of the role the United States intends to pursue under its new leadership vis-a-vis the peace process.

This vagueness becomes even greater in light of a statement made by the U.S. secretary of state. He announced at the end of his talks two nights ago that despite the fact that all the parties wish to return to the negotiations there are obstacles still to be surmounted and solved. This prompts the question, after the U.S.- Russian announcement on the resumption of negotiations: Have these obstacles actually been surmounted and is the road now clear for resuming the negotiations?

The information available so far, especially regarding the Palestinian position, confirms that the obstacles which drove the Palestinian side to suspend its participation in the negotiations are headed by the deportations issue. This issue has not yet been resolved. This opinion is supported by conflicting reports about the fate of the U.S. proposals on surmounting these obstacles.

Today, the U.S.-Russian agreement on the date for resuming the negotiations is a kind of pressure that is being applied on all the parties, and particularly the Palestinian side. The question that is being asked concerns the extent of the certainty of such a role by the two co-chairman of the peace talks and the extent of the harmony in trying to hasten to the negotiating table before solving the existing problems as well as serving the peace process, on the one hand. On the other, it concerns what Secretary of State Christopher has been saying during his tour about the role of full partner Washington intends to play in the peace negotiations. In our opinion, the Palestinian side has supported the peace efforts and in principle the need to resume the negotiations after the obstacles are out of the way, especially the issue of the deportees. We hope that the two co-chairmen in the next few weeks which separate us from April will make greater efforts to remove the obstacles and to arrive at satisfactory solutions, so that the U.S.-Russian invitations will have their positive significance and so that the way may be found to the resumption of serious and genuine negotiations.

Critical View of Christopher's Moves on Talks

LD2802231493 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concluded his Middle East tour, he headed for Geneva where he held a meeting with his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev and briefed him on the outcome of his tour. At the end of the meeting, he announced that the U.S. Russian sides have decided to extend invitations for the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks next April. Their evaluation of the situation left them with a feeling of confidence that the situation allowed for the resumption of the negotiations, which the two sides consider are of utmost importance.

We do not know where the source of that feeling of confidence lies, as it had clearly appeared that there was a deep dispute between the parties, especially as long as the issue of the deportees remained suspended. No one will disagree with the cosponsors of the conference about the statement that emerged after their meeting, in which they expressed the necessity for the parties to take additional steps to seize a historic chance to achieve progress toward a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement between the Arabs and Israel. Accordingly, Christopher and Kozyrev decided that the negotiations must be resumed in Washington in April without waiting and consulting for approval of the date from the countries participating in the bilateral peace talks.

In addition, the Palestinian side has set down conditions for its participation in the negotiations, and Israel has not given an answer to these conditions. Christopher appears to have ignored these conditions on setting the date, and put everyone in front of a fait accompli.

Such a method of dealing with the parties to the conflict differs from that of his predecessor Secretary of State James Baker, who used to discuss the decisions with the parties before announcing them. It appears that the parties must get used to a different kind of dialogue and decision-making. Christopher's style could create future problems for him and for the sides. These problems began when he forged a deal with the Israelis on the issue of the deportees without coordinating with the Arab parties. This deal, which Christopher thought the Arabs would accept, was rejected by the Arabs and Palestinians because it was not comprehensive, and required caution. The Arab rejection of this deal embarrassed the new U.S. secretary of state, but he is repeating the game by specifying a date for the next round of the negotiations without consultation or getting approval, not even from one of the parties.

The decision by Christopher, who is known to be cautious, to call for a new round of negotiations is the biggest adventure he has embarked on since taking up his post. Christopher is not known by nature to be adventurous, and we return to the question: What is the motive behind Christopher's haste in announcing the date of the next round of negotiations?

It appears there are two possibilities; Either the parties have secretly confirmed to him that they are prepared to return to the negotiations without linking this to resolving the issue of the deportees; or, he got confirmation from Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel on returning to the negotiations even in the absence of the Palestinians, and it does not matter whether the Palestinians are present or not, because the focus is on pushing forward the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli negotiations and announcing principles of understanding between them. That will force the Palestinians to seize the opportunity and attend the peace talks perhaps in future rounds, after the return of the deportees.

'Obstacles' Must Be Removed Before Talks Resume

TA2602193393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Obstacles Awaiting Removal Before Resumption of Negotiations"]

[Text] Hours after concluding his tour of the Middle East and departing for Geneva yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced after meeting his Russian counterpart, Andrey Kozyrev, that he had briefed Kozyrev about the results of his tour of the region and that the United States and Russia had agreed to invite the various parties participating in the peace process to resume the talks in Washington in April.

Prior to this, the news media had carried conflicting reports attributed to Palestinian, Israeli, and U.S. sources about proposals presented by Christopher to the Palestinian and Israeli sides. Those proposals dealt with an Israeli commitment not to resort to deportation in the future, ensuring the speedy return of all the deportees to their homes, respecting human rights in the occupied territories, and reaffirming Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis of the peace process. The reports varied from the withdrawal of those proposals due to their rejection by Israel to the continued study of the proposals.

These new developments raise numerous questions and spread further ambiguity on the nature of the talks that Christopher conducted in the region on one hand, and the nature of the role which the United States—under its new leadership—intends to play with regard to the peace process on the other. What increases this ambiguity is that the U.S. secretary of state announced at the end of his talks two nights ago that despite the desire of all the parties to resume the talks, "obstacles" still existed and that efforts should be made remove them. After the new U.S.-Russian declaration on the resumption of the talks in April, one is bound to ask: Have those obstacles really been removed and the road paved to the resumption of negotiations?

The available data so far, especially with regard to the Palestinian position, affirm that the obstacles—foremost of all the deportee issue—which led the Palestinian side to announce the suspension of its participation in the talks have still not been resolved. This belief is enhanced by the conflicting reports carried by the news media yesterday on the fate of the U.S. proposals to overcome those obstacles.

Today, after the U.S.-Russian agreement on the date of resuming the negotiations has been shown to be a sort of pressure on the various parties, especially the Palestinian side, the question now concerns the soundness of such a role by the cosponsors of the peace talks and whether the

attempt to jump to the negotiating table before overcoming the pending obstacles is compatible with promoting the peace process and with what Secretary Christopher announced during his tour about the role of "full partner" that Washington intends to fulfill in the peace talks.

At a time when the Palestinian side has supported the peace efforts and has also supported, in principle, the need for resuming the negotiations after removal of the obstacles which prevent this, especially by resolving the deportee issue, we hope that the cosponsors will exert intensive efforts—during the few weeks between now and April—to remove the aforementioned obstacles and reach satisfactory solutions so that the U.S.-Russian invitation can have its positive significance and so that it may possible to actually pave the way for the resumption of serious and real negotiations.

Importance of Palestinian Role Stressed

LD2702220793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers, it is not strange that the Palestinian side's reactions to the U.S.-Russian decision to resume the Arab-Israeli peace talks in April have fluctuated between cooperating with this premature decision, reemphasizing again the need to find a solution to the issue of the Palestinian deportees before the resumption of the talks, stressing the necessity of dotting the i's and crossing the t's with respect to various issues connected with conditions in the occupied territories, the mechanism and reference of the peace process, and considering the decision to resume the peace talks to be subject to discussion and consultation among the different Arab parties participating in the peace process.

The two sponsoring countries of the peace process are aware that the reasons which prompted the Palestinian side to announce the suspension of its participation in the talks, in particular the deportees issue, still exist. Also, the Palestinian side cannot jump over a number of facts existing in the aftermath of the deportation operation and the developments currently taking place in the occupied territories. These facts are directly connected with the Palestinian side, which is the first and last owner of the right to determine a stance on the talks.

The paving of the way toward serious peace talks requires the two sponsoring countries to preserve the direction of this process to achieve a comprehensive peace. This means that the different parties' stances must duly be taken into account.

The two sponsoring countries realize that the Palestinian side is a main party in the peace process. The Palestinian cause is the central issue of the conflict, and in consequence the overlooking of the Palestinian stance, or any attempt to jump over the true obstacles, will only lead to talks similar to the previous eight rounds of talks which have not led to substantial results.

Today, if America and Russia are concerned with pushing the peace process forward, and resuming the talks in April, they must above all work toward dealing seriously with the Palestinian demands, which conform with international legitimacy. In the forefront of are the need to work toward resolving the deportees issue, and the need to address the reasons why the talks have stumbled hitherto. The important thing in the peace process is not fixing dates for holding the sessions of the talks and the meeting of the parties, but the bases of the peace process and its terms of reference, and the extent to which international legitimacy and international law are respected by the parties concerned.

We are convinced that, without the above, the invitation to resume the talks remain similar to other previous invitations, and the road toward peace will remain a mere slogan which is not based on any substantial content.

PFLP's Damascus Congress Viewed

PM2602162893 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Feb 93 p 4

[Wafa' 'Amr report: "Popular Front Fifth National Congress; Malluh: We Did Not Go to Extremes, Our Political Line Remained Realistic, and Over Half of Central Leadership Was Replaced"]

[Excerpts] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] fifth congress, which concluded at the end of last week, witnessed some organizational surprises and contradictions. Its political results were not unexpected; actually they can be considered a continuation of the previous policy.

With regard to the surprises, over half of its Political Bureau members failed in the elections held to elect a new leadership for the Front. As for the contradictions, some of its leaders refused to nominate themselves—an unfamiliar practice in Arab political action, including Palestinian political action.

This is how two PFLP Political Bureau members summed up the congress' outcome from the organizational aspect.

Answering a question about the political line and whether it turned to extremism, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP's previous and present Political Bureau, said: "The Front adopted a realistic political line leaning toward responding flexibly to political developments at the Arab and world level and to the requirements of the political, social, and economic reality." [passage omitted]

According to PFLP Political Bureau members 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh and Taysir Qubba'ah and other delegates whom AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI interviewed, the focus in the congress was not on theoretical intellectual discussions. Actually delegates broached tangible issues realistically.

But the new thing at the ideological level was the congress' abandonment of Marxism as a doctrine. It decided on the need "to use historic dialectical materialism as a guide to understanding reality for the sake of changing it. And to affirm the Front's understanding of this method as a guide for action, not just a rigid doctrine or concepts and sayings isolated from tangible reality."

The congress took account of the characteristics of the Arab and Islamic reality and decided on "the need to Arabize Marxism and renounce rigidity or contempt," as 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh said. [passage omitted]

Malluh added that "the congress was characterized by courageous and rich intellectual and political debates in a great democratic atmosphere. It urged the new leading committees to conduct a deep and continuous theoretical dialogue in order to contribute to reading the new Palestinian Arab reality." Taysir Qubba'ah, who was elected to the new Central Committee and the new Political Bureau, believes that this congress "is the Front's first real congress in terms of its results and the democratic atmosphere that dominated it." He said: "We were surprised by two things at the congress: First, some of the prominent leading comrades in the Front asked to be relieved of their Central Committee membership while remaining as PFLP members, in order to make room for the new generation to participate in the Front."

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that Salah Salah and Ahmad al-Yamani (Abu-Mahir) were among those who refused to nominate themselves. The Central Committee was elected after three rounds of elections. With regard to the second surprise, over half of the Political Bureau members failed in the elections. Among them, for example, was Muhammad al-Musallami (Abu-Nidal). The reason is the grass roots' firmness and ability to courageously call the leadership to account and assess its behavior, action, competence, and productivity over past years.

Qubba'ah said: "The leaders were in an unenviable position as a result of the rigorous calling to account process." And "the doctor," Dr. George Habash, chairman of the congress, played an effective role in his address and debates. It was he who presented the proposed line which the congress endorsed. He was reelected secretary general of the Front. [passage omitted]

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has learned that 80 delegates ran for the Central Committee membership, that is for 40 seats. Less than half of the old leadership won in the elections—which led to introducing amendments to the internal law, which talks about proportional renewal by one third.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh said that the congress devoted a major part of the discussion to the situation in the occupied territories. The new thing which the congress decided was to allow the inside [the occupied territories] a bigger say in making political decisions and the Front's other decisions (30 percent of the seats went to members from inside). Malluh said that, because the Palestinian struggle's center of gravity has moved to the occupied territories since the launch of the intifadah, a change in the balance of decisionmaking has occurred at the Front's level and the Palestinian revolution's level. In the sense that the inside's influence in political decisionmaking should increase.

He added that "the Palestinian revolution is proceeding with two wings: one inside and one outside—the opposite of what happened in the previous stage. Thus leaders abroad are required to take account of this matter." Malluh pointed out that the center of political decisionmaking has not moved to the inside. But the inside's decisionmaking now represents a weight and influence of over 50 percent. And any Palestinian leadership at the partisan or national level must take account of this.

He said the door is now open to move the entire center of Palestinian decisionmaking to the occupied territories. "We did not rule that out. Our immediate task is to guarantee an increase in the inside's influence in the Front's decisionmaking and to increase the inside's volume in the Front. But we are going to face a phase in which the scale of decisionmaking inside will increase—which will prompt an examination of surrounding conditions."

With regard to the political program, no extremist views were noted in it, despite the Front's use of strong phrases in the introduction of its final statement, like "Israel is a foreign and aggressive body which the Palestinian and Arab masses reject completely and firmly." However, the essence of the political position—and this was also mentioned in the final statement—is "that the Front is not and should not be in principle against bargaining. Nor is it in principle against dealing with political solutions. But the sound tactic at this stage, which takes account of the special nature and complexity of the Palestinian issue, must be based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, which give us some of our rights and represent an important weapon in our hand on which we can rely when addressing the world. Although international legitimacy does not give us all our legitimate and historic rights, it gives us the right to self-determination and to establish an independent Palestinian state, and the right to return, the right to Jerusalem, and the right to remove the settlements. It is a tactic which enables us to link what is interim and what is strategic.

Thus the Front has begun to accept the interim solution which it has adopted since 1988, that is to establish a Palestinian state on part of Palestinian territory and recognize the resolutions of international legitimacy, including Resolution 242, which calls for recognizing Israel. The Front leaves its strategic aim, that is the liberation of all Palestine's territory, to posterity and

history, as Dr. Habash said in an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI several months ago. [Passage omitted]

Among the new matters in the resolutions of the Front's congress is the focus on the need to work to join Palestinian Islamic tendencies in PLO institutions so that they can operate from inside them. The congress emphasized that the alliance of the 10 forces opposed to the peace process is not an alternative framework to the PLO. It is a temporary alliance designed to confront the administrative self-rule conspiracy and any negative results that may result from current negotiations and harm Palestinian national rights. [passage omitted]

As for the political report which the congress prepared, it focused primarily on the intifadah. It stressed the need to secure all factors to protect it and ensure its continuation, on the grounds that it is the axis of the Front's action. It also stressed "the need to formulate Palestinian national relations in accordance with the requirements of the intifadah within the framework of the deep view of its role in thwarting the current liquidation schemes [mukhattatat al-tasfiyah]. And to escalate revolutionary violence and military action in order to thwart the administrative self-rule scheme."

The congress emphasized the importance of reinforcing the unified leading committee with the Democratic Front and the democratic alliance, closing the 10 forces' ranks, and strengthening the real national unity, and eliminating the intifadah's negative aspects. During a discussion of the military report the congress paused to examine the military action crisis on the Palestinian scene at large and the problems preventing its development, that is including the Front's action. It stressed that the armed struggle method is a main method in confronting the occupation alongside the other struggle methods, so that the occupation will recognize Palestinian national rights. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh said that this was reflected in the increase in the number of military elements in the Front's leading establishment, especially in the Central Committee. He said that the congress entrusted the Front's military cadres with formulating a program to surmount any obstacles to the development of military action.

He added: "Right requires force to impose. And without the enemy's feeling that there is a price which he must pay for his occupation and that this price increases daily, resulting in human and economic losses, the enemy will never concede." Hence the decision to intensify the Front's military action was taken.

The number of the Political Bureau members totals 11, seven of whom were members of the previous Political Bureau. They are [only six listed]: Dr. George Habash, secretary general; Mustafa al-Zibri (Abu-'Ali), deputy secretary general; 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, Sabir Muhyi-al-Din, Taysir Qubba'ah, Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad. The names of the other four were not announced because of the nature and conditions of their work.

Egypt

Musa on Peace Talks, Joint Meeting on Hala'ib

NC2702153993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a full report from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the outcome of the Egyptian-Sudanese joint committee's meeting on Hala'ib.

In the report, Musa said the committee is expected to hold its next session in Cairo at a date to be determined after 'Id al-Fitr. He underscored the need to settle all differences between the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments in a manner that safeguards the ties linking the two peoples.

Touching on the U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the peace negotiations, Musa said this proves that the peace process is important and should be maintained and sustained. It was clear that all, including the Palestinians, are determined to resume and safeguard the negotiations process, he said.

Musa Confident All Parties To Attend Next Talks

NC2702215293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today that the announcement by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev that they will extend invitations for the resumption of the peace talks stresses the importance of the peace process, which must be maintained and resumed. It was clear, he said, that all parties, including the Palestinians, were eager to safeguard the negotiating process.

The foreign minister said he is confident the atmosphere surrounding the peace process, disturbed because of the deportees issue, will be cleared and that the solution to the problem will reach a point enabling all parties, including the Palestinians, to participate in the next round of peace talks in April.

On the deportees issue, Musa said it is assumed that no more deportations will be carried out because the act has disturbed the peace process. On the meeting of the countries involved in the peace process, the foreign minister said: It was agreed that the meeting take place before the resumption of the peace talks. The agreement still holds, and contacts are expected to be held soon to fix a date.

On the recent incidents in Somalia, Musa stressed that the Egyptian diplomatic mission, headed by the ambassador, will remain in Mogadishu and that the embassy will carry on with its business.

Al-Baz Leaves for Israel With Message for Rabin

NC2802090193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0758 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, left Cairo for Israel this morning. Before leaving, he said he carries a message from President Husni Mubarak for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said his brief visit is within the framework of Egypt's continuing effort to solve the Palestinian deportees issue and resume the peace negotiations in April on time. Al-Baz is accompanied by Dr. Rida Shihatah, director of the President's Office for Information and Follow-Up.

Mubarak Expected To Visit Israel 'Shortly'

JN0103061993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo, carried in the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources expect Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to visit Israel shortly. This will be his first visit since he came to power in 1981. During the visit, he will discuss with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin the issue of Palestinian deportees and the future of the peace process in the region.

The sources said Mubarak's political adviser, who conveyed a message from the Egyptian president to the Israeli prime minister today, discussed preparations for this visit, which is expected to take place after Rabin's visit to Washington on 15 March. Al-Baz also discussed with the Israelis the possibility of returning the Palestinian expellees in three stages that would end in August this year. He, however, failed to obtain an explicit pledge by the Israeli prime minister not to deport any Palestinian during the next phase.

During his recent tour of the region, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher called for direct meetings between the leaders of the concerned Arab states and the Israeli prime minister in order to surmount what he termed obstacles to peace.

Mubarak Discusses al-Baz Mission, Other Issues

NC0103085293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak stressed that Egypt is doing all it can to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East; a peace that ensures the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, provides security and prosperity for all people of the region, and is based on the principle of land for peace and the implementation of UN resolutions.

President Mubarak said he sent Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the

President's Office for Political Affairs, on an urgent mission to Tel Aviv yesterday to meet with Israeli officials and discuss all types of Middle East issues, developments on the deportees, and to get acquainted with other view points. He said he did it to move the peace process on its right course and resolve any obstacles.

In an interview with the weekly magazine MAYU published today, President Mubarak discussed his coming visit to the United States, saying that a meeting with President Bill Clinton has been set for 6 April. He added that he will travel several days before that date to hold several other important meetings with political and economic figures and members of Congress. He added that his meetings will take place in New York, Washington, and possibly Chicago.

President Mubarak added that his itinerary in the United States will include a meeting with members of the U.S. Congress' Foreign Relations Committee to explain recent developments in Egypt, the Arab world, and our international efforts to uphold right, justice, and peace.

President Mubarak discussed the phenomenon of terrorism and attacks on tourists, telling MAYU that the state is defending citizens against terrorism and adding that citizens must rally with the government to fight these terrorists. He added that the culprits in the Wadi al-Nil Cafe incident in al-Tahrir Square will be apprehended soon.

The president also discussed the new professional associations law, saying that the law is a good demonstration of democracy because it will bring into any association representatives who truly express the will of its members. He added that the condition that half or a third of an association's members be present to constitute a quorum for elections means that the majority will be expressing its will; hence, this is a correct step based on the sound democratic process.

Mubarak discussed the role of the Armed Forces, saying: The role of the Armed Forces is an honorable one; it is the security of the homeland and the citizens. We do not allow any units to be sent abroad unless they are going to undertake a specific and clear mission, especially missions that uphold international justice and legitimacy. He stressed that the Egyptian soldier's role is honorable and noble, adding that the Egyptian Armed Forces are not mercenaries sent abroad at anytime and for just any mission.

Al-Baz Returns From Talks With Israeli Officials

NC0103110993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo at noon today from Israel after a two-day visit during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Dr. Rida Shihatah, director of the President's Office for Information and Follow-Up, who accompanied Dr. al-Baz during the visit, said the discussions were important and focussed on current developments to push the peace process in the region.

Al-Baz's Visit Said To Resolve Deportee Issue

NC0103131293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1238 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has said that the lightening mission by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, in Israel yesterday was a continuation of efforts to solve the deportee problem.

He said the visit's objective was to set the stage for resuming the peace process in a constructive and appropriate atmosphere.

Date for Talks Expected on Mubarak U.S. Visit

NC2702072893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 27 Feb 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM notes current preparations for President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States in early April. These preparations include plans for meetings with members of the new U.S. Administration and several U.S. congressional leaders. The president will also meet with foreign correspondents in Washington.

The paper cites a statement by an official source that President Mubarak's Washington visit is very important. He will discuss the various aspects of the Palestinian issue and the peace operation. In light of his visit, a date will be set for resuming the peace negotiations.

Commentary Urges Arabs To Attend Talks

NC2702153093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Resuming the Peace Negotiations Is Not a Goal as Such; What Counts Is Achieving a Just Peace"]

[Text] The pressing question that imposes itself on political circles these days is: Has U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour which ended a few days ago achieved the desired goals, and has President Clinton's administration really become fully acquainted with the Middle East issue and taken complete control of the peace process so negotiations can resume? In full neutrality we can say that Christopher's tour, during which he visited the Arab capitals and Israel and met with Arab

leaders and Israeli rulers, was successful by all standards and indeed realized its goals. The best evidence of this is the agreement in principle to resume bilateral peace talks between the Arab parties and Israel on 20 April. Washington, moreover, was assured after Christopher's talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and King Husayn that the Arabs truly are serious in their peaceful quest, that they are eager to protect the peace process, and that it is the other side which deliberately obstructs peace efforts, if not completely destroying them.

This is best illustrated by the Palestinian deportees issue, which Israel created and which indeed threatened to obstruct the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington if it had not been for the efforts Egypt, represented by President Husni Mubarak, made with Israel and other international parties to solve this problem and protect the peace process. Everyone, particularly the Israelis, should work to protect the peace process so that the interests of the region's peoples are served. Mubarak repeatedly has affirmed that peace is a precious goal for which we should all make sacrifices.

Another important achievement of Christopher's tour is the fact that Israeli leaders now are certain that the new U.S. Administration gives top priority to the Arab-Israeli dispute and is eager to continue the Middle East peace process, initiated by the previous administration, in its capacity as one of the two primary sponsors. The U.S. Administration, therefore, will not give up that role because it wants to protect its international credibility and its interests in the region.

We should not be overoptimistic, however, because the road to peace is long. Negotiating with Israel is a very painstaking process. It certainly will take a long time to find a just solution acceptable to all parties concerned for a crisis as chronic and complex as the Middle East; a solution that ends the state of instability, tension, violence, and counterviolence which has persisted for decades.

In light of what has been said, the Arab side must be prepared to engage in the peace battle with Israel when it starts in late April. This can be done through constant consultation and coordination to develop a united Arab stand capable of imposing the peace challenge not only on the Israeli side, but on the international community as a whole.

This is what is being prepared. Following his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state and the Dutch foreign minister in Brussels, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday announced that a meeting will be held among the foreign ministers of the Arab cordon states taking part in the Washington negotiations, and of course Egypt, before heading for the U.S. capital to resume bilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel.

Egypt has put its extensive experience in negotiations with Israel at the disposal of Arab brothers. This has deprived the Israeli side of the opportunity to indulge in maneuvers and push Arab negotiators to withdraw and accordingly blame them for aborting the peace process. By virtue of the political and cultural weight it carries and thanks to President Mubarak's credibility at the international level and his distinctive relations with many state leaders, Egypt today resumes its efforts with all the parties concerned. It employs all available resources to push ahead and resume peace efforts. It strongly backs the Arab quest for a just peace that guarantees the lawful rights of all the regional peoples, including the Arab Palestinian people.

What remains is for Israel to know that a mere agreement to resume the Washington talks, or even resuming them, is not the goal of the Arab side. What counts is for Israeli leaders to show goodwill, provide proof of this, and engage seriously in the next round of talks. Only then will the road be paved for the success for which the entire world hopes; namely, the establishment of a just peace that ends all kinds of bloodshed and violence, halts the dreadful arms race, and enables all the region's peoples to dedicate their resources to comprehensive development and reconstruction so they can catch up with the international economic blocs.

Daily Views U.S. 'Special' Treatment of Israel

NC0103071993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today entitled "No Pressures," AL-AHRAM says: U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher confirmed in occupied Jerusalem at the conclusion of his tour of the region that the United States is not pressuring Israel about the deportees. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres added that Washington does not want Israel to make new concessions on this issue and will not pressure Israel to obtain new initiatives in this regard.

The newspaper continues: It is very strange that Israel is given this special and prominent position, which violates all norms, laws, and international resolutions to which the United States itself adheres; however, the latter does nothing whatsoever to convince its ally to adhere to legitimacy. All this is taking place while the United States knows that the entire future of peace could be endangered from these unjust practices. In fact, its own reputation and prestige, proceeding from the fact that it is the world's strongest power and has the greatest responsibility in applying international legitimacy, could be endangered because of the Israeli stand on the deportees.

The paper concludes by asking: If the United States cannot see that Israel has made a mistake by violating international resolutions and laws on the deportees, thus necessitating U.S. intervention, how can it see that Israel has violated something even greater, such as denying Arab rights that also have international legitimacy?

Hala'ib Dispute To Be Settled Through 'Dialogue'

NC2802075193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council committee on Arab, foreign, and national security affairs, and member of the Egyptian-Sudanese committee formed to study bilateral relations and the border dispute over the Hala'ib triangle, stressed before the committee yesterday evening that a spirit of fraternity and amity prevailed during the third meeting of the talks held in Khartoum between 22 and 26 February, involving seven morning and evening sessions. He pointed out that the talks were frank and both parties agreed that dialogue is the best way to solve any dispute.

Dr. Shihab noted that the Sudanese party promised not to escalate or submit the issue to any other party. He stressed that a solution will be reached through an Egyptian-Sudanese agreement. He noted that the fourth meeting, which will be held in Cairo at a date to be determined through diplomatic channels, will complete the previous meetings. He said that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are characterized by a special nature and whatever happens will not affect the ties between the peoples of the Nile Valley. He stressed that both parties want to maintain strong ties, adding: We hope that these differences will be settled.

Request for Iraqi Envoy To Meet Leaders Rejected

NC2802112293 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1034 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb [AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]—ROSE AL-YUSUF publishes the following report on page 11 of tomorrow's edition: Egypt recently turned down Iraq's request to send a personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Egypt to meet the Egyptian leadership.

Arab sources told ROSE AL-YUSUF that an important Arab personality who is mediating between Cairo and Baghdad conveyed the Iraqi request to Egypt. The sources cite Egypt as saying it is in no hurry over the Iraq issue, which needs detailed and thorough examination, and there is a need for Iraq to adhere to all binding international resolutions and to abandon its claims to Kuwait before discussing the reception of any Iraqi envoy.

Bosnian Airlift Called 'Superficial Remedy'

NC2802092193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR asks if the tragedy of the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina is confined to a shortage of food and medical supplies or if it is basically a tragedy of a people facing a barbaric offensive by gangs seeking to exterminate them and seize their territory and possessions. In an editorial today, the paper says that U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to drop relief supplies on the besieged areas by aircraft is worthy of thanks and appreciation. But this aid is only a superficial remedy for the destruction that threatens to annihilate a people who lived on their land in peace and security.

AL-AKHBAR points out that the world's first duty is to act seriously and firmly to stop the aggression that began 10 months ago and that has killed tens of thousands of Muslims in Bosnia. The paper fears another problem like that of the Palestinian people occurring in the heart of the Balkans and fears the issue of the Bosnian people becoming one of refugees.

AL-AKHBAR states that U.S. President Clinton and all leaders responsible for world peace and security should realize that all that the people of Bosnia-Hercegovina want is an end to the undeterred criminal actions by the Serb forces in their small republic and that the priority should be to strike at the aggressors. Such action does not prevent continuing humanitarian aid to ensure that the number of victims of the tragedy will not soar.

Soldier Said Killed by Sniper Fire in Sarajevo

NC2802170793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (MENA)—A Defense Ministry official has stated that a member of the Egyptian contingent serving with the UN peacekeeping force in Sarajevo has been martyred after being hit by a sniper's bullet while carrying out his duty of protecting a relief convoy in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The martyred soldier, Isma'il Wahbah Isma'il, is a native of al- Minufiyah Governorate. He is the first casualty of the Egyptian force serving with the United Nations in Sarajevo. UN forces comprising troops from various nations face constant danger in that country.

The remains of the martyred soldier will be brought back to the homeland in the next few days.

'Fundamentalists' Suspected in Cafe Bombing

NC2702123493 Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Report by David Daure]

[Text] Cairo, Feb 27 (AFP)—Police said Saturday [27 February] that a home-made bomb resembling devices previously used by Muslim fundamentalists killed three foreigners and injured 18 people at a Cairo cafe crowded with Egyptians and tourists.

The Friday evening blast at the cafe on central Cairo's al-Tahrir Square killed an Egyptian, a Swede, a Turk and a Somali and also injured 13 Egyptians, two Americans, one Somali, a Frenchman, and a Canadian, they said.

The home-made bomb resembled those used by Muslim fundamentalists, who are opposed to Egypt's western tourist trade, police added. A timing device triggered the explosion of two sticks of dynamite hidden in a bag and placed under a cafe table.

A diplomat identified the Swede as Jan Christer Larsson, 32, who had left home in 1991 on a world tour. He arrived in Cairo in February.

Hospital official said an Egyptian and a Somali died overnight, after police reported the deaths of the Swede and the Turk, identified in Egyptian newspapers as Adnan Karizi.

Witnesses said the explosion at the Wadi al-Nil cafe occurred after four foreign tourists, including the Swede who died, entered the cafe. All the dead were reported to have been inside the cafe.

"I heard two explosions one after the other which stirred enormous panic among passersby on al-Tahrir Square," a witness said.

Thick smoke rose from the cafe, he said, adding: "I saw dozens of customers lying on the ground, some covered in blood and others in shock."

Police and firefighters arrived minutes after the blast which occurred near the Nile Hilton hotel and the Egyptian museum housing some of the world's greatest antiquities.

But ambulances took some time to arrive and there were not enough of them to evacuate all the wounded. Some wounded were taken to nearby hospital in private cars and taxis.

The cafe was very badly damaged, while blood stains, shoes, torn clothing and debris were left on the sidewalk.

The blast occurred after Muslims observing the holy month of Ramadan broke their daily fast for the evening meal. Police said earlier that the blast had been caused by a cooking gas cylinder.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

An English tourist was killed in southern Egypt in October, and Muslim fundamentalists claimed responsibility. Several tourists have been injured in more attacks since then as fundamentalists vow to pursue their campaign.

Egyptian authorities have stepped up security in tourist areas throughout the country, and sent police escorts with tour buses.

Forensic Experts' Findings

NC2702163993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—An examination by the Interior Ministry's forensic laboratory experts has revealed that the explosion last night at the Wadi al-Nil Cafe in central Cairo's al-Tahrir Square was caused by a locally-made charge filled with explosives, probably the highly-explosive TNT, Major General 'Adil Baha'-al-Din, assistant minister of interior and director of the forensic department, told MENA.

He said the examination revealed that the device was wrapped with electric wires and connected to a locally-made timer, usually used for refrigerators.

Maj. Gen. Baha'-al-Din explained that the perpetrator carried the device in the pocket of a leather jacket, entered the cafe from a side door on the left, and placed the jacket right behind him. This explains the hole created in the ground where the device had been placed.

The assistant interior minister said an analysis of the charge revealed the presence of many small nails, meant to cause the highest number of casualties among the cafe's clientele.

The incendiary bombs which terrorists used against the police in Imbabah contained the same type of nails. This indicates that the same terrorists were behind the cafe incident.

Maj. Gen. 'Adil Baha'-al-Din added that the charge was wired to an electric detonator connected to pen-like batteries to operate the timer and detonate the device at a specific time.

He added that forensic experts continue their analysis of the remains salvaged from the scene of the explosion to prepare a final report. The debris contains shrapnel from the electric detonator, the connecting wires, and the timer.

In another development, the security agencies continue their efforts to capture the perpetrators. A team of highly-experienced forensic experts has been set up at the instructions of Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa to comb areas suspected of harboring the terrorists believed to have perpetrated the crime.

Some of those injured gave descriptions of a person suspected of placing the charge inside the cafe. That person was seen carrying a black leather jacket, which he left inside the cafe near the entrance. The explosion occurred two minutes after he left the cafe.

The security agencies are making intensified efforts in the light of the descriptions and the information provided by those injured, in addition to other information about the terrorists' activities and their use of similar explosive charges in their crimes.

Suspect Undergoing Interrogation

NC2802105893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1030 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 28 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Our correspondent has learned from

informed sources that the device that exploded in al-Tahrir Square yesterday killed three people. A fourth person who was reported killed, 'Adil Abu-Bakr, was detained by state security bodies in hospital and taken yesterday to security headquarters in Lazughli on suspicion that he was involved in perpetrating the incident.

Security sources said defendant 'Adil Abu-Bakr lives in the 'Ayn Shams area next to the Adam Mosque, which was the scene of confrontations between extremist groups and security bodies three years ago. They added that a cafe employee identified the wounded defendant, so he was interrogated in past hours. Some 11 injured are still in intensive care; five are receiving routine treatment. [passage omitted]

Security sources following up the incident said they do not rule out terrorist groups' involvement, saying that this is confirmed by the way the device was planted, the culprits' escape before the explosion, and the material the device contained, similar to those that terrorists use against the security forces.

The Qasr al-Nil prosecution yesterday heard the testimonies of several injured and eyewitnesses. The number of victims rose to three after Egyptian 'Imad 'Abd-al-Basit died.

Minister on 'Terrorist Operation'

NC2802163093 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1447 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has said that the incident in al-Tahrir Square was a terrorist operation designed to spread panic among the people and undermine stability and security. We are familiar with such indiscriminate actions, but the surprise was that it took place during the month of Ramadan. The interior minister added: God willing, we are able to stop such actions, and within hours we will announce the perpetrators and details of the incident. We have information that 'Imad 'Abd-al-Basit, who was wounded in the explosion, is one of the people involved in the incident, he said.

During his meeting with the professors and students of Tanta University, the minister added that this was his fourth meeting with university professors and students, and that this comes following his meeting with professors and students of al-Azhar University, the al-Ta'awun Institute in Hulwan, and the Suez Canal University. I have sought this meeting to benefit from the ideas of the university professors and students to enrich national action now and in the future, he said.

The interior minister added: We reject threats and the terrorism of the gun and bomb. The Professional Associations Law, he said, was issued in order to be applied, and those who oppose it must do so within the law. Any violation of the law will be dealt with severely. Any attempt to undermine security will not be permitted. The minister called for cooperation with the police and security authorities to uncover terrorist plans.

100 Fundamentalists Detained

NC2802165893 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Report by David Daure]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 28 (AFP)—Egyptian police detained 100 Muslim fundamentalists amid an intense search for suspects in a cafe bombing here that killed four people, including a Swedish tourist and a Turk, police said Sunday.

The bombing, one of the bloodiest attacks in years, also injured 18 people, including four foreigners, at the cafe in the heart of Cairo's tourist and business district, authorities said.

Since the Friday evening blast, police have rounded up 100 extremists for questioning after sweeps of poor Cairo neighborhoods, and have transferred 30 prisoners from southern Egypt to a prison near Cairo, police said.

Some of the 30 may have helped plan the attack, police added.

Police also stepped up security around tourist sites amid apparent fears the latest attack may be an escalation of a Muslim extremist campaign against the Western tourist trade, vital for Egypt's foreign currency earnings. [passage omitted on background to explosion]

In other developments, an unidentified assailant Sunday threw a bomb at a store in al-Fayyum, 120 kilometers (70 miles) southeast of Cairo, causing no casualties but panicking passersby.

And in Asyut, 320 kilometers (190 miles) south of Cairo, police seized 30 hunting rifles and pistols from an arms workshop and arrested the owner on charges he supplied weapons to fundamentalists, police added. [passage omitted on previous attacks on tourists]

More Arrests Reported

NC0103110893 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1031 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Cairo, 1 Mar (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Security forces have arrested five members of the al-Jihad Organization in the Imbabah and 'Ayn Shams areas. Those arrested helped plan and carry out the detonation of an explosive device in the Wadi al-Nil Cafe in al-Tahrir Square three days ago. Three people were killed in the blast: two tourists and an Egyptian who was planting the device. Those strongly suspected of involvement have been placed in custody.

According to security sources, two of the injured suspects are 'Adil Bakr, who resides in Sa'b Street in 'Ayn Shams, and Hamdi Salih, from Imbabah. It has been ascertained that the dead Egyptian, 'Imad 'Abd-al-Basit, from Bulaq,

was definitely planting the device before being killed in the explosion. Strict security measures have been imposed on Ward 9 in the al-Manil University Hospital, where the injured suspects have been banned from receiving visitors while their interrogation continues.

Embassy Said Preventing Scholars From Visiting U.S.

NC2602160793 Cairo 'AQIDATI in Arabic 23 Feb 93 p 1

[Text] The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has prevented a number of al-Azhar scholars from travelling to Islamic centers in the United States to spread the Islamic call to Muslims there.

Contacts are under way through the Egyptian ambassador in Washington to facilitate the scholars' entry into the United States.

Al-Azhar has approved the travel of 10 senior scholars to spread the Islamic call in Islamic centers in the United States during Ramadan.

Libya

Trial Proposal Said To Be Presented to CIA

NC2602220393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Tunis, 26 Feb (MENA)—The Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ has cited Arab sources as saying that Libyan official Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm has obtained an entry visa to the United States and is due to arrive in Washington today to hold talks with U.S. Central Intelligence Agency officials to discuss the Lockerbie crisis.

The paper adds that Qadhdhaf-al-Damm will submit specifics of a Libyan offer which was presented months ago to the European countries. The offer involves the handover of the two Libyan citizens accused of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland to German authorities to be tried on German territory on the grounds that the case began at Frankfurt Airport, from where the plane in question took off prior to its explosion over Lockerbie.

AL-SHURUQ adds that Germany accepted the Libyan offer in principle and stipulated that Libya should pay all expenses for the trial, which German authorities estimated at $100 million. Libya agreed, but Germany later withdrew its acceptance.

The paper says that Libyan officials believe the German refusal followed pressure from Britain. This prompted Libya to try to contact the United States directly, and consequently Qadhdhaf-al-Damm will submit the proposal to the Americans.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Kyrgyzstan

LD2802163693 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1134 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Feb (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan have decided to establish diplomatic relations as from 25 February 1993, out of their desire to promote cooperation between the two countries.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives EC's Delors

LD2702132993 Rabat MAP in English 1224 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Rabat, Feb. 27 (MAP)—King Hassan II received here Friday at the Royal Office Chairman of the Commission of European Communities Jacques Delors, who was accompanied by the Commission's representative to Morocco Marc Piereni and his diplomatic advisor Bernard Zepter. The audience was attended by Premier Mohamed Karim Lamrani, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, advisors to the sovereign Ahmed Reda Guedira and Andre Azoulay and Moroccan ambassador to Brussels Abdellah Lahlou.

Jacques Delors was also guest at a dinner held Friday in his honor by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed.

[Rabat MAP in English at 1229 GMT on 27 February, in another Rabat-datelined report, adds: "President of the Commission of European Communities Jacques Delors who paid a two-day work visit to Morocco Thursday held an important meeting with members of the Moroccan Government. Talks focused on the projected free trade accord between Morocco and the EEC for a genuine partnership making it possible to carry out several joint private initiatives without neglecting the political human and social aspects of relations between the Kingdom and the community. Moroccan Premier Karim Lamrani explained how Morocco made considerable progress in integrating its economy in the world economic system and in consolidating democracy.

"For his part, Jacques Delors stressed the need to materialise the will expressed by the two sides to lay sound bases for new relations taking into account each party's realities. The European official also hailed the Moroccan Government efforts to eradicate drugs and the development project of the northern region which will be carried out with the collaboration of the EEC.

"Friday night, Delors was received by King Hassan II and by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed who hosted a dinner banquet in his honor."]

Delors Gives News Conference

LD2702175893 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, has described King Hassan's initiative on the development of the northern provinces and the eradication of the scourge of drugs as extremely important. At a news conference he held in Rabat this morning at the end of his talks with Moroccan officials, Delors expressed the EC's readiness to cooperate with Morocco through a realistic development plan which meets the requirements of the population. He indicated that the final program, which will be of exemplary value, will benefit from Europe's experience in regional development and the transformation of agricultural and industrial activities.

On the partnership agreement between Morocco and the EC, Delors said that this agreement would be effected only gradually. He added that the Moroccan character and the peculiarities of development in Morocco have been taken into account, in addition to the distinguished diplomatic and political role played by the kingdom. In this respect, Delors insisted on the importance of the EC's commitment to Morocco, pointing out that in terms of finance the flow of capital has increased from 150 million European Currency Units [ECU's] to 500 million ECU's in the current year.

The EC Commission president went on to say that the partnership agreement consists of four main aspects concerning the creation of a free trade zone and financial and political cooperation, in addition to cooperation in other fields.

Replying to a question on the program which has been adopted to implement the partnership agreement between Morocco and the EC, Delors said he is confident that this agreement will be signed as soon as possible, with the possible addition of a clause allowing the revision of this agreement in order to take into account the problems which could hamper its implementation and also in order to clearly define the type of relations which the EC intends to establish with Morocco.

Regarding the place of the agricultural sector in the partnership agreement, Delors stressed the need not to ignore the progress achieved in the past two years in other fields. He said that this progress should not be overshadowed by the problems linked to the agricultural sector. In this respect, Delors indicated that Morocco, by virtue of its geopolitical position between Europe and the Mediterranean, occupies a special place.

On immigration issues, Delors said he believes that the intermixing of populations as a result of migration movements in effect constitutes a factor for understanding rather than a factor for conflict. He emphasized the need to control these movements by helping the countries which have a surplus in their active population. He also pointed out that all the Moroccans aspire to a bright future, adding that he shares the same feeling with them. He went on to say that the immigrants must be like a bridge between their countries of origin and their host countries in order to contribute to the strengthening of understanding between peoples, in addition to contributing to the development of their countries.

King Receives U.S. Ambassador, Message From Clinton

LD0103080593 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday received the U.S. ambassador accredited to Rabat, Mr. Frederick Vreeland, who came to bid his majesty farewell at the end of his diplomatic duties in our country. During the audience, the ambassador conveyed to his majesty a special message from the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD2602184693 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The Moroccan Kingdom and the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina decided last Wednesday to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Vienna on diplomatic relation dated 18 April 1961 and in accordance with the United Nations' Charter in this regard. This initiative falls within the framework of strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Oujda Appeal Court Eases Sentences on Demonstrators

LD2702131293 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Oujda (Eastern Morocco), Feb. 27 (MAP)—The Court of Appeal of Oujda Thursday looked into the cases of a group of students arrested after the violent events of last December in the university. The group of students are accused of 'participation in non-authorised demonstrations and publication of false information'. The court reduced the first instance court's sentences for two students. It also acquitted seven other students.

Sudan

Report Affirms No Progress at Hala'ib Talks

EA2802221293 Khartoum SUNA in English 1725 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Feb (SUNA)—Talks of the Sudanese-Egyptian joint committee on Hala'ib issue, which were held here last week, have been concluded without reaching positive results, a source at the joint committee said, stressing that the talks were focused on violation made by Egypt at Hala'ib area following convening of the second round of talks in last October.

The source said the Sudanese side at the committee emphasised necessity of evacuating the Egyptian military troops from Hala'ib area so as to ensure stability at the area.

TNA Speaker on Participation in Abuja Talks

EA2702152593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly and leader of the government's delegation to the peace negotiations, has explained that all sides in the rebel movement have agreed to participate in the forthcoming round of negotiations in Abuja, whose date will be fixed by Nigeria.

He said this round will be a completion of the first round which specified the basic frameworks represented by national unity, the federal system, and the political system based on the concept of conferences. His excellency described the results of the Entebbe discussions between the government and the rebel Garang's wing as an important step along the road of peace. He affirmed the government's effort to establish a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the country in which all the sides concerned would participate.

He said: We hope the negotiations will have positive results, through the seriousness of submission and the truth of intentions, to achieve the sought-after peace, so that the sons of Sudan turn to construction and development to create stability.

TNA Approves Cooperation Agreement With Ethiopia

EA2602203293 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] The Transitional National Assembly [TNA] approved a joint cooperative agreement between the Sudanese and Ethiopian Ministries of Foreign Affairs. The agreement aims at promoting cooperation between the two ministries in the field of information exchange between the two bodies, in addition to coordinating their efforts in the international sphere. The two ministries will (?look at the positive) ways of communication and cooperation between their missions and the (?kind of) political and social progress in the two countries.

According to the agreement, Ethiopia will establish consulates in Qadarif and Damazin, and Sudan in Gambela and Gonder.

Western Sahara

Polisario Warns on Resumption of Operations

LD2702094893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz announced yesterday that the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] will resort anew to carrying arms if the United Nations submits to the Moroccan demands. The United Nations has given the Morrocans and the Saharans a period of three months to agree among themselves, otherwise it will decide in Morocco's favor, a matter which the Saharan president considers unacceptable.

In an interview with the daily LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz demanded that Morocco implement the political agreement signed by the two sides in 1991.

Diplomat Calls UNSC Peace Project 'Acceptable'

LD2802205093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The UN peace plan in Western Sahara has remained stalled for a long time because of Morocco's maneuvers over defining the identity of the voters. The UN Security Council had granted a three-month deadline to the two parties to the conflict to resolve that crisis. Regarding the position of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hambra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] on the UN peace plan and the specified deadline for the two sides—Moroccan and Saharan—to resolve the dispute and the problem of criteria adopted to specify voters' lists, the Saharan ambassador to Algeria gave the following explanation to to our colleague Taieb Boutarfif:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] The decision which the Security Council will take, no doubt, and which comes from the five permanent members of the Security Council—that is to say the superpowers—is a conciliatory plan between the different points of view. Accordingly, it does not cancel at all what was previously agreed and it does not favor, I mean, finding, another plan or implementing de Cuellar's proposals of 1971. So, for the Polisario, this project which the Security Council will discuss is an acceptable project in principle, especially since it specifies the time, that is, the time for contacts between the parties and the secretary general or his special representative, and also specifies the time even for the implementation of the plan itself or carrying out the referendum at the end of this year.

As for the criteria defining the identity, which is the second part of your question, the criteria for defining the identity, Morocco or the Moroccan government is the one which originally proposed the Spanish census in 1974 and it has an objective, of course, and that is that the Polisario will reject these criteria because there are many Saharan families which lost their sons in this destructive war between the brothers in Morocco and the Western Sahara. So, of course, the Polisario is more mature, more rational, and has accepted this census because it is the sole neutral census. [end recording]

Kuwait

Minister Rejects Ties With Pro-Iraq States

LD2802170493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 28 Feb (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed Kuwait's commitment to the Damascus Declaration. He pointed out that the security agreements Kuwait has signed with friendly states are not in conflict with the principles of the declaration.

He repeated Kuwait's stand, namely that Kuwait still refuses to resume relations with the states that were against Kuwait, particularly the PLO leadership and the Jordanian regime, as these two still back and support the Iraqi regime and its false claims.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad was speaking during a meeting with the chief editors of Kuwaiti newspapers in his office at noon today. The meeting was also attended by KUNA Director General Yusuf Muhanmad al-Sumayt and Rida Yusuf al-Fayli, acting under secretary at the Ministry of Information. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that Kuwait refuses to restore relations with the states that sided and still side with the Iraqi regime over its occupation of Kuwait. First and foremost among these are the PLO leadership and the Jordanian regime, he stated. He said the question of restoring relations is rejected, even if it is a possibility. At the same time he emphasized that Kuwait supports the Palestinian people and said that the Palestinian cause is still the focus of the Kuwaiti political leadership's attention.

On the Iraqi opposition, he said that Kuwait does not interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and that it supports the integrity of Iraq's territory. He added, however, that Kuwait cooperates with some of the opposition groups that adopted a clear stand on supporting the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on the war and on the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad discussed U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Kuwait during his Middle East tour of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. He said that during his talks with senior Kuwaiti officials the U.S. secretary of state confirmed the backing and support for Kuwait of the new U.S. Administration under the leadership of Bill Clinton and asserted that this administration will stand alongside Kuwait in the future as well.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad confirmed the depth of the ties between Kuwait and the fraternal Gulf Cooperation Council states. He said that these ties are normal and are proceeding as usual.

He also mentioned the visit to Kuwait by the Libyan leader's envoy, namely foreign minister 'Umar al-Muntasir. He said that Kuwait had stressed the firmness of its stand toward the Iraqi regime and the need for this regime fully to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the war to liberate Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah said that regular weekly meetings will be held in order to acquaint the Kuwaiti chief editors with the latest developments and events that are of interest to Kuwait.

No Ties With Iraq Under Saddam

PM0103143993 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 24 Feb-2 Mar 93 p14

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-MAJALLAH: "No Relations With Baghdad Under Saddam Husayn"]

[Text] Rabat, AL-MAJALLAH—Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has not ruled out the possibility of Kuwait restoring its relations with the states which supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Kuwait, he said, still keeps its embassies in Yemen, Sudan, Tunis, and Jordan. But he said that more time is needed for the restoration of confidence between Kuwait and these states.

In reply to a question from AL-MAJALLAH at a press conference he held in Rabat after his meeting with King Hassan II, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that it is impossible for Kuwait to normalize its relations with Baghdad while Saddam Husayn heads the Iraqi regime. He also said that the problem of the "stateless" is on its way to a solution and estimated the number of people who fall under that category at 50,000. Some of them, he said, deserve to be Kuwaiti and it would be an honor for us.

On Kuwait's relations with the PLO, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that his country has stopped all aid to the PLO since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but he added that "nobody cares more than us about the Palestinian cause."

Commenting on a recent statement by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa maintaining that the "Damascus Declaration is shaky," the Kuwaiti official said that "the Damascus Declaration is neither shaky nor dead."

On the partition of Iraq into three regions, he said: "None of us supports the partition of Iraq. Partition of Iraq is not in the interest of the Arab world."

Oil Production To Be Cut 1 Mar

LD2802215193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 2045 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 28 Feb (KUNA)—This evening Kuwait announced that it will be cutting its oil production to 1.6 million barrels a day from tomorrow, 1 March. A responsible source at the Oil Ministry told

KUNA that Kuwait has issued instructions to the oil companies working in the country to cut their production to 1.6 million barrels a day from tomorrow, 1 March. The source stated that this cut will come as an implementation of the recent OPEC agreement. [passage omitted]

Army Chief of Staff's Resignation Not Accepted

PM2602114093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Chief of Staff Resigns"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, AL-HAYAH—Informed Kuwait sources have stated that Kuwaiti Army Chief of Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah recently submitted his resignation to Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah, but the resignation was not accepted. The sources did not give reasons for the resignation but they emphasized that Maj. Gen. Jabir has stopped carrying out his official duties as chief of staff. His deputy, Major General 'Ali al-Mu'min, participated in various functions instead of him over the past weeks.

Maj. Gen. Jabir was deputy chief of staff at the time of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Foresees No Change in U.S. Policy

LD2602142393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Excerpts] The United Nations, 26 Feb (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti representative to the UN, Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan, has expressed his conviction that the United States will not change its stance on peace and security in the Arab Gulf region under the new administration. He added that the stance taken by the Security Council on the Iraqi aggression was not a tactical act by one country, as the Iraqi regime had hoped, but a true application of the UN Charter. The United States, giving its international leading role, had merely decided to support the UN Charter and the principles of international justice.

Abu al-Hasan pointed out furthermore, in an interview with KUNA at the UN, that such a stance was not dictated by the Bush Administration's sympathy for Kuwait nor by its bad feelings towards Iraq and its president. Rather, it was the principles of the U.S. Constitution and U.S. policies in the world which prompted the United States to take such a stance. Abu al-Hasan also believes that any American administration—be it a democratic or a republican one—will find it hard to relinquish its principles for any bilateral considerations. [passage omitted]

Abu al-Hasan observed that the new U.S. permanent representative to the UN, Madeleine Albright, with whom he conferred earlier this week, told him that the United States was not moved by the Iraqi "overtures of friendship" and that it would not change its stance on the need for full implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

Arab League To Discuss Plan on Kuwaiti POW's

JN2802170093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1602 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Feb (SANA)—Arab League sources have said that in the next few days Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd- al-Majid will discuss with Iraq's Arab League representative the future plan of action which will be worked out by both the Arab League and its envoy Rashid Idris regarding the Kuwaiti POW's held in Iraq.

In an exclusive statement to the SANA correspondent in Cairo, the sources added that the Iraqi representative will convey his government's reply, and that the Arab League's subsequent move concerning another visit to Iraq by this envoy will be determined in light of the Iraqi reply.

Security Accord With Russia Expected

NC0103104593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Kuwait, 1 Mar (MENA)—A Kuwaiti military source has confirmed that Kuwait and Russia will sign a security agreement after 'Id al-Fitr [around 22 March] during Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah's visit to Russia at the beginning of April.

The source told MENA that negotiations are currently taking place between the two sides regarding a deal over Russian arms Kuwait intends to buy. The deal consists of missile defense systems similar to the U.S. Patriot missiles. These are advanced missile systems used as antimissile or antiaircraft missiles.

The source added that an agreement is expected to be reached on this deal, reportedly worth $1 billion, before the defense agreement is signed.

The Russian defense minister held talks with Kuwaiti officials in February, when the two sides reached an agreement on the guidelines of the security agreement.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Official in Riyadh for Pilgrimage Talks

LD2702130693 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 27, SPA—Major-General Ibrahim Muharram, first assistant interior minister in Egypt and the accompanying delegation, arrived here last night. In a statement to SPA, Muharram highlighted the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Egypt. Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Husni Mubarak are keen on

enhancing cooperation between the two countries in the Arab, Islamic and international affairs, he said. Muharram described the expansion projects at the holy places as a great achievement and said they aim at ensuring the comfort of the pilgrims and enabling them perform their rituals easily.

Muharram pointed out that he will discuss with Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments 'Abd-al-Wahhab 'Abd-al-Wasi issues pertaining to the Egyptian pilgrims.

United Arab Emirates

Dubai Bank Profits Down 22 Percent

NC2802100793 Paris AFP in English 0927 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 28 (AFP)—The largest bank in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reported on Sunday a 22 percent decline in 1992 net profits, its first fall in seven years.

The National Bank of Dubai (NBD) said profits fell to 92.2 million dollars, from 112.4 million dollars in 1991.

It gave no reason for the drop but bankers attributed this to NBD's careful lending policy and a sharp decline in interest rates on loans.

Rates have fallen to around seven percent, compared to nine percent in 1991 and more than 10 percent in previous years. But rates on deposits have also dropped to a record low of three percent and this is expected to raise profits.

NBD's balance sheet showed loans fell to 12.9 billion dirhams (3.5 billion dollars) in 1992, from 14.2 billion dirhams (3.86 billion dollars).

Deposits rose slightly to 20.5 billion dirhams (5.58 billion dollars), of which nearly one billion dollars belong to the bank's shareholders.

The bank, owned 15 percent by the Dubai government, said assets increased to 25.3 billion dirhams (6.89 billion dollars) in 1992, from 24.6 billion dirhams (6.7 billion dollars) in 1991.

Capital remained unchanged at 861 million dirhams (234.6 million dollars).

Yemen

Iraqi Special Envoy Arrives for Talks

Al-Tikriti Arrives With Message

JN2702123193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1217 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Sanaa, 27 Feb (INA)—Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, political adviser to [Iraqi] President Saddam Husayn and the president's personal envoy to his brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, arrived here today. Barzan Ibrahim said that he will convey a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on bilateral relations and following up on current Arab and international affairs.

Salih Receives al-Tikriti

JN2702184793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's political adviser. President Saddam Husayn's envoy gave the brother chairman a letter from the president of the brotherly Republic of Iraq dealing with fraternal ties and Arab developments. The letter also deals with the conditions under which the brotherly Iraqi people are living due to the continuing economic sanctions despite Iraq's compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions. The letter further states Iraq's concern and readiness to help efforts aimed at restoring Arab solidarity.

The brother chairman told al-Tikriti that Yemen's people and government sympathize with the brotherly Iraqi people as they are enduring a blockade that has ceased to have any justification because Iraq is complying with the UN resolutions. He appealed to the international community [words indistinct] toward the suffering of the elderly, women, and children in Iraq as a result of the economic blockade. He emphasized the importance of brother Arabs closing ranks and working toward putting the past behind them and clearing the Arab air and laying down firm foundations for intra-Arab relations so as to further the cause of Arab solidarity and enhance the Arab nation's capacity to grapple with challenges.

Besides Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, the meeting was attended by brothers Yahya al-Mutawakkil, member of the Advisory Council; Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of legal affairs; and Muhsin Khalil, Iraq's ambassador in Sanaa.

Saddam Ready for 'New Era' in Relations

JN0103110293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Mar 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn stands ready to open a "new era" in external relations based on mutual confidence and stability in the Middle East, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Sunday.

The Iraqi leadership "is willing to live up to the pledge that Kuwait is a closed chapter," said Mr. Ortega, who returned to Amman Saturday after talks with President Saddam in Baghdad Thursday.

"They are ready to open a new era in relations based on mutual confidence and regional security and stability," he said. "It is the time other regional leaders took a new look at the entire situation in the post-Gulf war period and realise that their interests would be better protected in an atmmosphere of accommodation and free dialogue."

The Nicaraguan leader also called for "an immediate relaxation" of the international sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

"Iraq has exerted consideable efforts and has gone a long way in implementing the U.N. resolutions" related to the Gulf crisis and the terms of the ceasefire following the liberation of Kuwait in February 1991 by an American-led western-Arab coalition.

If no relaxation of the sanctions is offered and the Iraqi people continue to suffer, then chances of lessening tension in the region would remain elusive, he warned.

Mr. Ortega said President Saddam and other Iraqi leaders told him that Baghdad was ready to "wipe the slate clean." As a first step, he said, Iraq was ready to offer all details it had in relation to Kuwaiti contentions that more than 800 Kuwaiti nationals remain in Iraqi detention.

Mr. Ortega said he was requested by the Arab League to broach the issue of alleged Kuwaiti detainees in Iraq during his talks in Baghdad and the Iraqi offer came in response.

The Sandinista leader declined to say whether the Iraqi leaders were denying or confirming that Kuwaitis were under Iraqi detention. But, he quoted Iraqi officials as saying that "some of the people whose names were in a list provided by the Arab League to Iraq are actually in Kuwait."

Mr. Ortega said the leaders of the Arab Gulf states who remain at odds with President Saddam would be ill-advised not to take the Iraqi posture for open dialogue and reconciliation seriously and not to "accept the reality that whether they like it or not the government of Saddam Husayn is there to stay in Baghdad just as Iraq is ready to accept the reality of the government of the al-Sabahs in Kuwait and others elsewhere in the region."

The alternative is, he said, "negative elements being added to the region every day, heightening tension and making it more difficult for a realignment of forces to serve the interests of the people of the region."

Mr. Ortega said there was heavy resentment in Iraq over the new Iraq-Kuwait boundaries drawn by the U.N.

"It has created a new issue of conflict rather than settling the (pre-crisis Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute)," he said, referring to one of the reasons cited by Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Reportedly To Visit Cairo

TA2602164393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Feb 93 pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] AL-QUDS has learned from reliable sources in Amman that Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and architect of Iraqi diplomacy, will depart for Cairo within the next few days at the head of a high-ranking Iraqi delegation to meet with a number of Egyptian officials, including Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, to present Iraq's ideas on reconciliation with Egypt and the Arab states.

Those sources say that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has expressed his satisfaction at the tone of the message conveyed by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, from the Iraqi to the Egyptian leadership. This was confirmed by the lengthy meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate. At this meeting, Mubarak stressed that the Arab League should have a major role in this reconciliation, which the Egyptian president wishes to be comprehensive and on all Arab fronts.

Sources close to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat have emphasized to AL-QUDS that 'Arafat's recent visit to Baghdad and Cairo were very successful. This led the Egyptian president to make a brief and surprising visit to Damascus, during which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting was devoted to discussing the Iraqi file and the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Saddam Planning Expulsions of Marshland Residents

LD2802220293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Baghdad regime is planning a large-scale transfer of people living in the southern marshlands. In a statement the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said that the Iraqi regime has warned the residents of the (al-Ubayli) region in the

province of al-Basrah that any delay in leaving the region will result in the bombardment of their homes.

The SAIRI statement added that the village residents have been the target of bombardments and an economic embargo by the Iraqi Army for the past several months.

Elements of the Baghdad regime had earlier burned marshland plants and polluted large sections of the water in the al-Basrah marshlands, causing significant environmental damage to the (al- Ubayli) region.

OBSERVER Report on Attack on Marshes Denied

JN2802202593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Commenting on the report, which was published by the British newspaper THE OBSERVER yesterday and which the BBC television network volunteered to publish throughout the world about the situation in the southern marshes of Iraq, an official source at the Culture and Information Ministry told INA that THE OBSERVER has a close relationship with Tehran and that the report which it published yesterday is a group of Iranian lies and fabrications.

The official source invited correspondents of newspapers and television networks in Britain and the whole world to visit the marshes to make sure that the situation there is normal and that THE OBSERVER's report is a mere fabrication, which surfaces whenever the date of the Security Council's periodic debate on the blockade against Iraq approaches.

Iraq Reserves Right To Breach No-Fly Zones

NC2802070693 Paris AFP in English 0517 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 28 (AFP)—Iraq "reserves the right" to breach the allied-imposed air exclusion zones over northern and southern Iraq, a senior Ba'th Party official said in a newspaper article Saturday.

"Iraq does not recognize the ban" ordered by the United States, France and Britain which "has no legitimacy," 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al- Ghafur, a member of the ruling Ba'th Party local leadership, wrote in an editorial.

The allied action "in reality attacks the sovereignty and security of Iraq and divides its territory," 'Abd-al-Ghafur added.

'Abd-al-Ghafur's editorial appeared in the AL-QADISIYAH daily, a mouthpiece for the Iraqi defence ministry.

The Gulf war allies imposed the no-fly zones last August, banning Iraqi aircraft from flying north of the 36th parallel and south of the 32nd parallel, to protect Kurdish and Shiite populations, respectively.

The two groups rose up against the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in the wake of Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War of January-February 1991.

Iraq clashed with the allies last month over its refusal to withdraw anti-aircraft batteries in the exclusion zones, leading to a series of attacks by allied warplanes.

Baghdad later decreed a unilateral ceasefire in the conflict to coincide with the inauguration of new U.S. President Bill Clinton on January 20.

UN Sanctions of Committee's Decisions Criticized

JN2702183793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Minerals has criticized the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee's objections to Iraq's requests to import consumer goods on the pretext that such goods promote Iraq's industrial capability.

Commenting on the results of the committee's 87th meeting on 11 February, the spokesman made a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, in which he said that the committee canceled the lists presented by Arab and Turkish companies, including lists of raw materials for the cigarette industry.

The spokesman indicated that the lists presented by Jordanian, Tunisian, and Turkish companies included requests to allow them to export dozens of consumer goods directly linked to the Iraqi people's human needs. However, influenced by the permanent representatives of the coalition states, the Sanctions Committee rejected these lists.

The source indicated that the list of banned goods also includes polyester textiles, artificial leather, cotton spun threads, caustic soda, and textiles used for making blankets for hospital and school beds. [passage omitted]

Daily Assails UNSC Over Imports Ban

JN0103115993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—AL-THAWRAH daily lashes out at the UN Security Council's Sanctions Commission over its disgraceful and inhumane refusal to give premission for Iraq to import consumer goods.

The Sanctions Commission's decisions will fail to dent the will of the Iraqi people, or undermine their resolve to hold out and stand fast, the paper asserts in an article titled "Disgraceful Unjustified Act," published today.

AL-THAWRAH, mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: We are not surprised by the commission's latest decisions and such ignoble behavior on its part, because it once refused to sanction the import of pencils for primary school children.

The paper blames permanent UN Security Council members, who were partners in the anti-Iraq alliance, for these immoral objections and decisions. AL-THAWRAH stresses that they are the ones who order the commission, under various pretexts, not to sanction the shipment of consumer and medical items to Iraq.

The paper says it is hard to imagine the depths of the hatred to which these "big" powers are prepared to sink just to hurt and starve the Iraqi people and keep them from enjoying their legitimate right to life and advancement.

Such dastardly acts on the part of the Sanctions Commission and the Security Council's permanent members prompting it serve to show that the Western alliance is not yet content with all the systematic destruction it wreaked on Iraq and that it is bent on committing further war crimes against the steadfast Iraqis, hurting them, and depriving them of food and medicine.

This shameful and immoral act on the part of the Sanctions Commission, the paper adds, demonstrates that the Security Council is now little more than a tool manipulated by the alliance nations to control and impose their will on the international community.

Ironically, the countries who have been holding forth about human rights are the ones who are most guilty of violating human rights and international norms and conventions.

They are in error and miscalculating if they think that these egregious and arbitrary decisions can dissuade Iraq from pursuing the drive to rehabilitate itself in the aftermath of the devastation wrought by the aggression, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

'Policy of War' Dominates Clinton's Policies

JN2702101593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi political analyst has said that the policy of war still dominates the U.S. stand on Iraq, even though Clinton's policy toward Iraq has been described as a no-war, no-peace policy. In an analysis published in BABIL today, Mazhar 'Arif noted that involvement in U.S. internal problems did not tie President Clinton's hands in his foreign policy on Iraq, Somalia, Libya, and Yugoslavia. 'Arif said that the difference between Clinton and his predecessor is that the language of the first is still more moderate because only a short period of time has passed since Clinton's inauguration and because of existing problems in Europe and Japan.

'Arif refuted the opinion of some analysts who believe that the burden of America's economic crisis will make President Clinton concentrate on tackling domestic issues and pay less attention to foreign policy. 'Arif expressed his belief that America, under the new administration, will use the inherent contradictions within capitalism and the internal domestic crisis as a threshold to carry out military adventures and expand the policy of interference in the internal affairs of others.

The Iraqi political analyst stressed that President Clinton will not be satisfied with hinting at a trade war with Japan and Europe, but will go further than this in the coming years. He will go to war.

'Arif noted the retreat in Clinton's call on Haiti refugees, the oscillation in his policy on Yugoslavia and Somalia, and the contradiction in his statements on Iraq during his election campaign and after he became President.

Opposition Radio Reports Deployments in Baghdad

NC2702155393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Iraqi opposition sources have said that abnormal and unclear measures and movements are taking place in Baghdad.

A statement issued by the information office of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq in Vienna said that Republican Guards and security forces are patrolling the streets of Baghdad and guarding the approaches to the city. The statement added that troops on maximum alert are deployed on the roofs of party and government buildings. The statement said that the movements and deployment of the regime forces in this manner indicates to any observer that something has happened or will happen in Baghdad. Tanks and other weapons as well special infantry forces have been deployed around the Republican Guards command, the Defense Ministry, and the headquarters of the ruling Ba'th Party's national and regional commands. These forces also are on a state of maximum alert.

The statement, which was carried by the German news agency [not further specified], affirmed that joint military and security units have been deployed on the outskirts of important centers and heavily populated neighborhoods such as al-Thawrah, al-Shu'lah, al-Kazimiyah, and al-Karradah. The security forces are closely inspecting vehicles and passengers leaving these areas.

Egyptian Presidential Adviser al-Baz Visits

Brings Mubarak Message for Rabin

TA2802123893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1150 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Report from the prime minister's office by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Excerpts] Following a meeting with the prime minister, Egyptian envoy Usamah al-Baz made a very brief statement a few minutes ago. He said merely that he brought a message dealing with the renewal of the peace process. [passage omitted including indistinct passage with al-Baz speaking]

He mentioned President Mubarak's message to the prime minister, brought by him to Jerusalem. Speaking English, he said the message was related to the peace process. He and the prime minister discussed the developments and the state of the peace process.

Beyond these general declarations, the main topic of his talk with Yitzhaq Rabin was the deportation issue and the Israeli versus the Egyptian stance. Nonetheless, judging by the information released at today's cabinet meeting, the next round of peace talks will start in the second part of April.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 28 February in a related report adds: "The controversy between Egypt and Israel consists of Egypt's demand for an Israeli pledge to refrain from deporting Palestinians in the future. The Israeli Government, for its part, insists on its stand that deportations are not part of its policy, and that the deportation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists does not constitute a precedent.

["Before his meeting with the prime minister, Usamah al-Baz met with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. They discussed the plan to convene the multilateral talks' steering committee prior to the convening of the various committees for the next round of talks."]

In the first part of its weekly meeting, the cabinet was briefed on the weekend events in northern Israel and on the results of Warren Christopher's visit to Israel. Let us hear Minister Yosi Sarid:

[Begin recording] [Sarid] Everything indicates that the negotiations will resume in April. It will take extraordinary events to prevent this from happening.

[Raz] What about the escalation in the north?

[Sarid] I am not certain there has been escalation. There was a string of events, but I would not blend the string and call it escalation. A grave incident took place, but we were lucky. Let us hope all this is behind us. [end recording]

Back to Usamah al-Baz: At about 2000 tonight, he will meet with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. This is all we can report about the brief visit to Jerusalem of the Egyptian president's adviser.

Beilin Interviewed on Egyptian Role

TA2802170493 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in Jerusalem by Rafi Reshef on the "New Evening" program on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] [Reshef] Good evening to Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Reshef] Do you have a clear idea why Egyptian envoy Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's political adviser, came to Israel?

[Beilin] I cannot discuss the details of the message he brought, but the very fact that the Egyptian president's adviser flew to Israel with little more than a day's notice is important in itself. This illustrates how easy it is for him to come here, deliver his message, and meet with us. Most of all, it shows how important the peace process is to the Egyptians and the kind of efforts they are prepared to undertake to promote it.

[Reshef] Incidentally, why do these visits always seem to take place without prior notice?

[Beilin] Apparently this is the Egyptian style. We do not mind, as long as we can find time to meet the Egyptian representatives, whether it is Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on two previous occasions or Usamah al-Baz this time. By the way, Usamah al-Baz does not come to Israel very often, and this is his first visit in quite a long time. Since he is one of Egypt's top decisionmakers, his arrival is of great significance.

[Reshef] Does this constitute some sort of statement by President Mubarak? After all, unofficially of course, Usamah al-Baz ranks higher than the foreign minister, who visited Israel some time ago.

[Beilin] He is a very senior official indeed, and I can definitely regard this as a kind of statement by President Mubarak, attesting to the high degree of importance he attaches to the peace process and to Egypt's relations with Israel, even more so in light of Usamah al-Baz's personal connections with leaders throughout the Arab world.

[Reshef] Mr. Beilin, are the Egyptians supposed to play the dominant or leading role in bringing the Palestinians back to the negotiating table?

[Beilin] They have played a rather significant role. It is enough to recall that several days ago, while Secretary of State Warren Christopher was still in Israel, Usamah al-Baz met with PLO leaders, against the backdrop of U.S. efforts to bring the Palestinians back to the talks.

The Egyptians themselves did not constitute the principal factor, of course, because they are not part of the negotiations; however, the fact is—and I can say as much after meeting Usamah al-Baz this morning—that they are concerned that only about 45 days remain before the talks are scheduled to resume, and Egypt would like to inject some content into this period, because things change rapidly in our region and it would be a great pity if there were an overly long hiatus in the political process.

[Reshef] All this, of course, with the blessing of the United States. Do you think that Usamah al-Baz may have finally brought the magic formula that will permit the return of the Palestinians?

[Beilin] I assume that this matter was also discussed in his meetings. I do not know if this is the magic formula. I think that the Americans did the most important thing. The moment they came to the Russians saying that the invitations should be sent out—and the Russians agreed—the Palestinians came under the heaviest pressure. The Palestinians will certainly not want to be left out of the game now that the others have already said that they will attend the talks.

[Reshef] Will this stand up to the test of reality? Do you think that the Palestinians will show up in April for the next round of talks in Washington?

[Beilin] If I had to bet on it, I would say yes. I cannot be certain, but I believe that the Palestinians understand what a terrible mistake it would be to stay away from the talks while we negotiate with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

[Reshef] Thank you, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin.

Contacts on Summit Under Way

TA2802173893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports contacts are under way to bring about a meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Mubarak. During today's talks with Usamah al-Baz in Jerusalem, a proposal to convene such a meeting was raised against the backdrop of discussions of Egypt's involvement in the political process. Al-Baz met with Prime Minister Rabin in the prime minister's bureau, with part of the meeting being held in camera. Our correspondent adds that Egypt wants to play a more active part in the peace process, and toward this end it emphasizes its good relations with Syria.

Further on Mubarak Message

TA0103073593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Gay Bekhor, and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] The United States has handed the Palestinians a formal statement voicing its objection in principle to the expulsion of residents of the territories and its view that it is an illegal act. The United States was thereby responding to one of the Palestinians' six demands to the effect that the act of expulsion is inadmissible in principle.

The deportation issue was mentioned also in the message conveyed yesterday by Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at their first meeting in Jerusalem. In his message, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to overcome the deportation hurdle so as to allow the peace talks to resume in April.

Rabin explained to the guest that the government would not budge from the compromise on the deportees issue achieved with the United States. The purpose of al-Baz' surprise visit, which was planned on the night of 27 February, was to update Mubarak and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa prior to the Arab foreign ministers meeting due to take place in Damascus tomorrow. In recent days, the Egyptians have been pressuring the PLO to instruct the Palestinian delegation to accept the cosponsors' invitation to the ninth round of talks.

Toward that end, Mubarak wanted Rabin to issue a statement pledging that Israel would not resort to deportations as a punitive measure in the future. Political sources said, however, that the prime minister refused to make the commitment, suggesting instead to settle for his recent statement that the deportation of 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists was an unusual step which did not constitute a precedent. The Egyptians want Israel to use the review committees to return the Hamas deportees more rapidly, thereby concluding the process by the summer.

Al-Baz, who met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his deputy, Yossi Beilin, said that Syria is genuinely interested in peace with Israel and called on them to invest an effort in negotiations with Syria. A report received from Brussels states that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told the European troika ministers that although Damascus distinguishes between the deportation issue and the need to resume the peace process, it will be hard put to act on that as long as Israel has not fully implemented Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of deportees.

Al-Baz did not promise that Syria would return to the talks without that resolution.

The Egyptian president's adviser also met with Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories, who briefed him on a series of improvements Israel is ready to introduce as soon as the talks resume. Israel has suggested that the Palestinians compile a list of 50 names of veteran deportees from which Israel will select those eligible for return to the territories. The final list

will be made up by defense authorities who will disqualify deportees who were directly involved in either political or operational PLO activities.

In his talks with Israeli representatives, al-Baz emphasized the problem of Islamic fundamentalism in Egypt, which is much more serious than it is in the territories. In this context, he mentioned the terrorist attack in a downtown Cairo cafe last Friday, noting that Egypt copes with the problem without deportations.

The al-Baz-Beilin conversation dealt with the dispatch of a joint delegation of Foreign and Defense Ministries officials to Cairo in a bid to prepare the disarmament symposium which Egypt recently proposed be held in Cairo. The delegation will discuss the symposium's agenda and ensure that Egypt does not focus the discussions on the demand that Israel sign the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

The condition for Israel's participation is that Egypt should send invitations to all the Arab countries, including Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Lebanon, and that the United States and Russia cochair the symposium. The conversation further dealt with the possibility of convening in Moscow the multilateral talks' steering committee prior to the next round of multilateral talks.

According to a report received in Jerusalem, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher enumerated in a meeting with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes the six points featured in a Palestinian document and designed to enable the peace talks to resume: negotiations over Jerusalem during the interim stage; the return of old-time deportees; a U.S. statement rejecting the deportation policy; a U.S. declaration that the bilateral talks are based on Resolutions 242 and 338; an increased number of deportees returned at once, and an accelerated schedule for the return of the others; confidence-building measures and an improvement in the condition of human rights in the territories.

Briefing the cabinet yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the Americans have not made any new demand concerning the Hamas deportees. He pointed out that Israel would make no more concessions on this issue.

According to Peres, the Americans have not strayed from the compromise agreement as they want to maintain credibility in their dealings with Israel. He cited Christopher as saying that the key word in Israeli-U.S. contacts is "friendship." Peres noted that the Americans would like the peace talks to resume at the same point where they stopped, and that they understood Syria would like to resume the process as soon as possible. The Syrians do not link the process with the resolution of the deportee problem, but they insist on the need to remove that obstacle.

Peres added that Saudi Arabia, too, had voiced to the Americans their support for the resumption of talks. Peres noted that the Americans do not intend to renew the dialogue with the PLO. They decided to refrain from a decision on the resumption of talks during Christopher's visit to Israel because they feared that would offend the Russians. The new administration supports an arrangement on the basis of Resolution 242 and of the land-for-peace principle.

Political sources in Cairo said that Mubarak again proposed to Rabin yesterday the Egyptian-Palestinian plan, which is acceptable to PLO head Yasir 'Arafat, for the solution of the deportee problem. According to the plan, one-third of the deportees would be allowed to return at once, another one-third in April, and the rest by June.

In his message to Rabin, Mubarak pointed out that this can be the best compromise, as it is acceptable to the Palestinians and does not speak of the return of all the deportees at once, protecting Israel's honor.

This proposal was already rejected implicitly when its details were brought to Jerusalem by the U.S. secretary of state. According to the sources, President Mubarak further wrote that if Israel adheres to its "negative stand" on the deportee issue, it will harm the political process. [passage omitted]

Meeting With Peres

TA0103054793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the adviser to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, returned home last night after a one-day visit to Israel. He delivered a message from Mubarak to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and expressed hope for a brighter future.

[Begin al-Baz recording] I hope that the matters will move in the right direction in the coming few months, and that finally peace will prevail in this region, save us from the dangers that surround us and from the bleak potentials that surround the prospects of a break in the peace process. [end recording]

Officials in Jerusalem say the visit by Dr. al-Baz was less dramatic than it appeared and reflected Egypt's desire to be involved in the peace process. More from reporter Jack Katzenell:

Usamah al-Baz' last meeting here in Israel was with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night. Shim'on Peres said al-Baz expressed President Mubarak's hope that matters will move toward a comprehensive peace in the region. It was a friendly meeting, Peres said. He and al-Baz reviewed the situation, briefed each other on meetings which each had had with foreign statesmen, and discussed what to do in order to promote peace. Peres defined Egypt's role as important and constructive. Asked if the visitor had raised the issue of the expelled Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists, Peres refused to go into the matter. He said it was the United States that initiated the compromise agreement with Israel on that issue. As of now, Peres said,

there is no American request to reopen the issue. He, Peres, did not wish to elaborate further.

There have been persistent reports that al-Baz and Prime Minister Rabin discussed the possibility of a summit meeting between Rabin and President Mubarak, but the prime minister's media adviser, Gad Ben-Ari, told me there was nothing on which to base such a report. He said the talks were much less dramatic than they appeared. They reflected Egypt's desire to be a partner in the peace process. The problem with the expelled Hamas activists was barely mentioned. The discussion was mainly about Egypt's contacts aimed at renewing the peace process, for example, its contacts with Syria. [passage omitted]

Peres To Go to Egypt

TA0103141193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] AFP reports from Cairo that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Israel soon. Sources close to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry confirmed the report. A Foreign Ministry source in Jerusalem said that Mubarak would visit Israel after Prime Minister Rabin returns from Washington. Mubarak's political adviser Usamah al-Baz returned to Cairo this morning after preparing the Egyptian president's visit to Israel. Foreign Minister Peres will visit Egypt next week.

PLO Reportedly Secretly Agreed To Attend Talks

TA2802084493 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Qeren Neubach, and Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpt] Palestinian sources in the territories have told our correspondent that during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East tour, the PLO relayed a secret message to the United States that it will eventually take part in the Washington talks in April. The message was given on the assumption that the deportees' affair will be over by April.

Our correspondent reports that some in Israel's top defense echelons believe that there is indeed no point in prolonging the deportees affair, and that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's upcoming visit to the United States should be taken advantage of to make a gesture of returning all the deportees, according to a schedule, by the end of May. [passage omitted]

Political Sources Welcome Remarks by Syria's al-Shar'

TA2802084793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Feb 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev, Dan Avidan, and Gid'on Kouts]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday warmly welcomed the remarks by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' who was quoted by Qol Yisra'el as saying that although Syria is seeking a comprehensive arrangement, it also wants to conclude its negotiations with Israel as soon as possible and will, therefore, not necessarily wait for the conclusions of the discussions with the Palestinians and other Arab countries.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said in response that al- Shar's statement is "another sign of the change that Syria has undergone, beyond its readiness to attain a peace agreement with Israel." Beilin said that "the declaration constitutes yet another answer to those who claim that 'Syria is just talking.'"

Beilin added that the declaration "is a first positive message" regarding one of the two main Israeli demands in the negotiations with Syria—that peace with Syria "stand on its own two feet" and be independent of the attainment of agreements on other levels of negotiations. Beilin also said that so far, "we have received quite a few replies" regarding the first demand, which calls for full normalization of the relations between the two countries. Referring to both demands, Beilin remarked that Israel has not yet received "sufficient replies," but the direction is "definitely positive."

Stance on 'Comprehensive Peace' Analyzed

TA2802061793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] According to several reports, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Syria is seeking a comprehensive rather than a separate peace with Israel. He noted, however, that Syria wants to conclude its negotiations with Israel as soon as possible, rather than wait for the conclusion of Israel's talks with Jordan and the Palestinians. Jerusalem is analyzing these remarks thoroughly in themselves and in view of the information received from Warren Christopher following his visit to Damascus, where he heard the demand for Israeli withdrawal from all the territories.

Political circles point out that the Israeli reaction to events in northern Israel has been reserved so as to prevent escalation and damage to the political effort.

As for negotiations with the Palestinians, the intensive U.S. effort aimed at securing Palestinian acceptance of the Israeli-U.S. accord whose main points—the return of deportees and improvements in the life of Palestinians in the territories—are common knowledge.

Also, Jerusalem is waiting for Washington and Moscow to send official invitations to the peace talks apparently due to resume on 18 or 19 April.

Rabinovich on Syrian Talks, U.S. Role

TA2602161893 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, by Rafi Reshef in the studio—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Let's listen to what you said here last December.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] We can reach a joint declaration of principles in the spring, one which from our point of view has to be announced publicly and simultaneously by both delegations. That would give not only the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, but also the negotiations in general, a major impetus, and raise them to a new level. [end recording]

[Reshef] You talked about the spring.

[Rabinovich] That is right.

[Reshef] That means this coming April.

[Rabinovich] That could be. I would not like to....

[Reshef, interrupting] I am only asking what you mean when you refer to the spring.

[Rabinovich] It could definitely be this coming April.

[Reshef] There are those who think you might be disappointed.

[Rabinovich] We will meet in April, I hope, and start work on the declaration of principles, and if the Syrians try to be responsive to us, or try to be responsive to themselves, then we can still reach a declaration of principles in the spring. If we go back to what I said in December, I said at the time, and I still say, that it is possible.

[Reshef] Would it be too much to say that 18 months after the Madrid conference we cannot use terms like breakthrough?

[Rabinovich] No, but we can certainly talk about significant progress. If you look at Israeli-Syrian relations over a span of 40 odd years, during which the two countries did not talk to each other from the early 1950's to 1992....

[Reshef, interrupting] But we have been talking about a dialogue, an atmosphere for too long. We are waiting for some document.

[Rabinovich] But I did not say that we want to remain with only the achievements of last summer. We definitely want to progress.

[Reshef] You said we could do it in April.

[Rabinovich] From our viewpoint, we can do it in April, but we have a partner.

[Reshef] We know of the other partner, but can we still do it by April?

[Rabinovich] There is also a third partner, we should not forget that, the United States. The secretary of state's visit, and the overall activity and tour of the region, are no less essential for the success of the process.

[Reshef] Shim'on Peres said this week that if it does not happen in 1993 then the chances will be slimmer. I have perhaps slightly exaggerated what he said, but do you accept that position?

[Rabinovich] I would say that it is preferable to make progress as early as possible. Therefore, it is preferable if it happens in 1993.

[Reshef] To what extent do you think we have a problem with the Palestinians at the moment? Is it a substantive problem or is it an attempt to make tactical achievements? Will they come to Washington in April?

[Rabinovich] We have a problem, and first and foremost there are substantive problems with the Palestinians and the Palestinian delegation to the talks. During the summer and fall we confronted those problems at the meetings. The Palestinian desire to raise their level of representation in the talks....

[Reshef, interrupting] What about the deportee problem?

[Rabinovich] Now there is also the deportee problem. There is that issue and there is also a Palestinian attempt, which we have felt in recent days, to exploit the desire of the Americans, the Arabs, and the Israelis for them to come to the talks, to deal not only with the deportees' problem, but also to achieve an overall improvement in their condition.

[Reshef] At what level will the problem be resolved, if at all?

[Rabinovich] I think there is a good chance that it will be resolved. I think that the objective conditions needed for a solution already exist.

[Reshef] Will it call for another concession from us on the deportees?

[Rabinovich] I do not think that we will have to make further concessions. As I said, I think that the conditions needed to resume the talks already exist, and I believe that by April the talks will be resumed.

[Reshef] An issue which was of great concern in this round—perhaps due to the difference in nuances in the wording used by the secretary of state in Damascus and Jerusalem—was how far the Americans should be involved. Henry Kissinger was quoted in an article by Abba Eban in HA'ARETZ as saying: Baker managed to get them together, but in the 1970's I succeeded in getting them to sign three accords without getting them together.

[Rabinovich] Yes, there have been different styles and different levels of American involvement. The important thing is that if we talk about the agreements already reached between Israel and an Arab partner since the early 1970's, then the United States has played an active role in almost all stages. What is different in the current situation is that the United States itself managed on the eve of the Madrid conference to arrange after many years a direct dialogue between us and the Arabs. I think that during the visit by Warren Christopher, we made it clear to ourselves and the Americans....

[Reshef, interrupting] Why? What are we afraid of? You know that Jimmy Carter said that he managed to get the Camp David accords signed only because for 11 days he prevented any direct contact between al-Sadat and Begin. What are we afraid of? How can the Americans harm us if they do have a mediator's status?

[Rabinovich] First, we do not fear anything. I think that the relations with the United States, and those developing with this administration, are characterized by a good atmosphere and not mutual fears. Therefore, there is no fear. If we are concerned about anything, it is that the direct character of the talks should not be harmed. We definitely are interested in American participation. We recognize that the United States is a vital partner to the process and to the achievement of any settlements. I think we reached an understanding during the talks held between us and the secretary of state and his party in this visit. We have no problems with that.

[Reshef] Okay, you say we do not fear anything, but Yitzhaq Rabin made certain that he made it clear to the secretary of state that we do not want any mediator or arbitrator. Abba Eban said in the article mentioned before that it has been proven that a third element can initiate a proposal that none of the sides is capable of accepting from his rival.

[Rabinovich] That still does not mean an arbitrator. We have to recall that when we talk about a superpower like the United States—and it is now the sole superpower—making a proposal to bridge the differences or achieve a compromise, it in fact becomes a sort of letter of arbitration. That we do not want. There is a difference between that and a sort of creative messenger referred to by Abba Eban, and that is the difference we would like to keep.

[Reshef] You are returning to Washington. It is reasonable to assume that it will take time before you come back. Next time we meet will we be able to analyze concrete achievements, or will we continue to discuss a theoretical situation and hopes?

[Rabinovich] You will always be able to screen what I said today and ask me how I feel about it.

[Reshef] I fear we will be talking about why it did not meet expectations.

[Rabinovich] I hope not.

[Reshef] So do I. Thank you.

Rabin on Golan Heights Withdrawal, Deportees, Egypt

TA0103061593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin says Israel is trying to avoid a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but it is getting difficult to explain why it won't do for Syria what it did for Egypt in the Camp David Accords. Rabin last night addressed the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem. The prime minister said Egypt is interested in playing a role in renewing the peace talks and should be given the chance. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] One day after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met in Jerusalem with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's senior adviser, Usamah al-Baz, American Jewish leaders of the Presidents Conference are scheduled today to meet with President Mubarak in Cairo. After last night's appearance, Rabin was asked whether he might meet the Egyptian leader during the next couple of weeks.

[Rabin] I believe that we'll continue to maintain contacts between Egypt and Israel, between President Mubarak and myself.

[Ze'ev] Asked about his meeting yesterday with Usamah al-Baz, Rabin said the Egyptians must understand further compromises on the deportation issue are not on the table, even if it would mean resolving the problem of Palestinian participation in the next round of peace talks.

[Rabin] As you know, we are committed to the understanding between us and the United States. I believe the Egyptians are aware of it. I believe that Egypt is interested in the resumption of the peace negotiations, in the removing of some obstacles. We have exchanges of views, which I will not elaborate about them.

[Ze'ev] During his address to the presidents conference, the prime minister raised some eyebrows with a statement that Israel is ready for a withdrawal of its armed forces on the Golan Heights. Rabin's media adviser, Gad Ben-Ari, made the point that the premier said a withdrawal on the Heights, not from the Heights. But the prime minister said it is difficult rationalizing not pulling out of the Golan Heights altogether for peace with Syria, when Israel did leave all of Sinai for a peace with Egypt.

[Rabin] We are trying our best that the precedent of the price of peace that Israel paid for Egypt in territory, in uprooting of settlements, in the destruction of Yamit, will not be brought back, but I would not deny it's very difficult to explain: Why did you agree to that with Egypt? Why not with Syria?

[Ze'ev] And, again, the Israeli prime minister predicted an agreement with Syria by the end of 1993. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 1 March reports that in the same address the prime minister said "Israel's future depends on economic development within the boundaries of the Green Line; in Jerusalem, the Galilee, Tel Aviv, and the Negev. He added that the Israeli Government is committed to the safety of the small settlements in Judaea and Samaria, but that neither 'Imanu'el nor Ari'el, neither Nabulus nor Ramallah, will determine the fate of the State of Israel." In a recorded passage, Rabin says in English: "Not Nabulus and not Ramallah will decide our fate, but what will happen in the bulk of the Jewish people of which Israel is composed. This is the issue."]

Beilin Comments on Territorial Compromise in Golan

TA0103100793 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Mar 93 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] "There can be no peace with the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip." This observation was made yesterday by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin in an address before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem. Beilin said there would be territorial compromise in the Golan Heights, but Israel would be guided by the principle that the entire Golan Heights is not to be returned. He added that with regard to Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem is our red line. "As stipulated in the Labor party's platform, we will not give up Jerusalem, the 'Etzyon Bloc, and the Jordan Rift Valley." Beilin further said that "those who want Gaza, can come and take it tomorrow. Faysal al-Husayni and his associates will take it off our hands, because they live there."

Netanyahu Briefs Golan Mayors on Withdrawal Plan

TA0103115393 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Mar 93 p A4

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] Binyamin Netanyahu, along with other Likud MK's, yesterday toured the Golan Heights, changing the tour's original itinerary. Netanyahu said the purpose of the visit was to express solidarity with heads of Jewish and Druze settlements and to acquaint them for the first time with the Israeli plan for withdrawal from the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Netanyahu opened his meeting with Jewish mayors of Golan settlements by disclosing the "bombshell" he brought from Tel Aviv: "The Israeli Government has a two-phased plan for withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and it has already been forwarded to Syria. In the first stage, Israel will withdraw to the promontories line; the Americans will supervise the evacuated area and some six Jewish settlements east of the line will be evacuated, including 'En Zivan, Aloney Habashan, Elrom, and Odem. The Druze townships beyond the line—Mas'adah, Majdal Shams, and Buq'ata will be relegated to full Syrian sovereignty. The second stage, which is to include full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, will be carried out five to seven years later. [no closing quotation marks as published] [passage omitted]

Public Opinion Said Ready for Golan Withdrawal

TA2802121793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 93 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "The Golan Already Is a Separable Part of Israel"]

[Text] Warren Christopher's tour has completed the erasure of the consensus slogan—"The Golan is an inseparable part of Israel." As things stand now, the Golan already is a separable part of Israel. This started a long time ago, was given some push during the political negotiations, and has now reached its peak.

The acceptance of the expected withdrawal has not yet been officially expressed; not on the map that, according to Leslie Susser of THE JERUSALEM REPORT, has already been drawn by Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres; not in the deployment of the forces in the field; nor in the government's stand that there will be a withdrawal "on the Golan" and not "from the Golan."

It is only natural for such a concession to first take place in the heart, which is just what happened in Israel over the past several months. Likud Knesset Faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav can make as many claims as he likes that the negotiations themselves are in violation of the Golan Law which the Knesset passed. Borders can withstand armies and diplomats; they cannot cast off the inner voice of those who defend them.

After all, Christopher's satisfaction with his interlocutor Hafiz al-Asad was evident in his tormented-looking face, and switched on all the alarm bells of the Israeli right wing. And yet, the settlers did not manage to arrange an impressive demonstration against him in Jerusalem. Just the contrary; the igloo they built from the Hermon Mountain snow melted in the Jerusalem heat wave, and only a few bothered to come and demonstrate. This is no accident.

The remark by Deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq about a total withdrawal from the Golan was no accident either. It may be true that a senior officer should not have slips that stridently cross the lines of the government's policy. It may be that Shahaq should have told the foreign reporters that he is in no position to answer questions that are based on assumptions which contradict the government's policy. And yet, regardless of all the explanations and claims that the remarks were taken

out of their context, no one in Washington or Damascus has any doubts about what Shahaq's heart is telling him. They know for certain that his is not an irregular or an individual's opinion in the Israeli General Staff. It is reasonable to assume that this is the view of the majority of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] generals, which is encouraging.

What Shahaq said or claimed to have meant is unimportant. What he thinks is important, and makes a very significant contribution by the top military brass to the peace process. If we want to examine the distance Israeli public opinion already covered over the past decade, it is enough to remember the day in which then Prime Minister Menahem Begin warned the Syrian leader: "Al-Asad, Beware! Generals Yanush and Raful are waiting for you!" Last week, Yanush, Avigdor Ben-Gal [Reserve Major General and former commander of the Northern Command], supported every stand the right-wing parties attributed to Shahaq, and Raful, Refa'el Eytan [Tzomet leader and former chief of staff], was very careful in his criticism of the deputy chief of staff.

The willingness to leave the Golan in return for peace with Syria is currently considered "bon ton" by Israel's political circles. These days, a book called "Begin in Power" by [former cabinet secretary] Arye Na'or is being published. The book's public relations campaign is based on a giant headline which stands out from the other issues mentioned in the press release: "Willing To Withdraw from the Golan—this was one of the most surprising declarations by Menahem Begin."

The opposition is not poised to block the process which erodes Israel's hold on the Golan. David Levi's current enemy is not al-Asad, it is Netanyahu—and vice versa. Even if Beni Begin argues about political issues with Yitzhaq Rabin at length, this activity will mostly go unheeded by the Likud primaries voters. They want to know which of the candidates is able to put them back in power in the next elections. Netanyahu?—fine; Begin?—fine; Levi—not quite? Well, he was on almost every channel last weekend. He did not do that because the Syrians might soon take over the Golan, but because the Likud chairmanship might be taken by Netanyahu or Begin.

It may well be that just these conditions will, eventually, make it hard on Rabin to insist on giving away a piece of the Golan in return for a full peace. The argument that Israel's public opinion will not let him agree to a total withdrawal has been taken away from him. Everyone in the world can see that Israeli public opinion has agreed to a withdrawal for peace, and is even urging it.

This willingness, however, is not cast in the Golan basalt rocks. What makes it difficult for the agreement in the heart to turn into an official Israeli policy which accepts a withdrawal from the Golan Heights is the Syrian stand, the wording of which is only meagerly flexible. Christopher had just left the Middle East, and already he was told that Damascus will not make a separate peace with Israel; it wants only a comprehensive agreement. This is as if the entire region has been taken 14 years back in time, to the rejectionism of the days before Camp David. The 60 katyusha rockets that landed in the Galilee over the past 24 hours will be interpreted in Israel as a Syrian refusal to exert its influence on Hizballah and calm our northern border.

Well, missing opportunities has never been an Israeli exclusive.

Successful Arrow Missile Intercept Test Conducted

TA2802184893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Israel's experimental antiballistic missile, the Arrow, this afternoon made its first test launch against another missile. Sources close to the program say the Arrow successfully intercepted the incoming missile. Reporter Alan Ben-'Ami has more details:

The launch was watched anxiously by Israeli and U.S. scientists connected to the program. Development of the Arrow is being done here in Israel, but funded largely by the United States as part of the SDI, or Star Wars program. There have been four previous Arrow launches since the program began in July 1989 to test the launching, control, and avionic systems. Not all have been entirely successful, and scientists at Israel Aircraft Industries have worked hard to overcome the snags.

The launching of an Arrow against an incoming missile marks the beginning of a new stage in the antimissile development program, and sources close to the program say the test was a successful one. The Arrow was launched against another Arrow missile, which had been fired seconds earlier. Both missiles were launched from a naval platform off the Israeli coast. Within two minutes the missiles were separately launched, the intercept took place, and the test successfully concluded. The intercept Arrow successfully detected and locked onto its target, passing it within meters as intended, I was told. The aim of this flight was apparently to test the Arrow's interception accuracy, rather than its destructive capability. But it is pointed out that the Arrow came close enough to have destroyed its target had that been the plan. [passage omitted]

At least three other intercept launches are planned to take place this year, and if all goes well the next stage of the program will involve seven test flights of a smaller Arrow, but one which will have twice the capability in height and range of the current model. The United States covered 80 percent of the $128 million cost of the initial developing stage of the Arrow, and is now funding 72 percent of the $321 million budgeted for the current stages of the Arrow's development.

Two Killed, Seven Wounded in Tel Aviv Attack

TA0103071593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] A murderous terrorist attack in south Tel Aviv: An Arab youngster, apparently an inhabitant of the Gaza Strip, armed with two knives stabbed nine passersby and was later captured by civilians. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that two victims died at Ichilov Hospital, while the other seven are reported in serious to stable condition; three of them are currently undergoing surgery.

Eyewitnesses said the assailant apparently operated alone. He arrived on the scene in a commercial van. He dropped one knife as he fled the place. Ambulances arrived on the scene more than 20 minutes later. Large traffic jams have formed around the scene of the murder, in the heart of a commercial and business section, but the police are currently directing traffic and pressure is easing.

Rabin Reacts

TA0103114193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in his first reaction to the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that the government will take steps to reduce terrorist attacks but that ultimately a political solution must be secured.

[Begin Rabin recording] We will adopt measures, and we will somewhat isolate the territories for some time. Basically, however, if we do not secure a political solution, the presence of 100,000 Palestinians from the territories on Israeli soil carries the potential for a murderous lunatic to perpetrate such deeds. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 1 March notes that Prime Minister Rabin said that a decision on such measures "will be made yet today" and that "there is no proof that the attack was related to any terrorist organization or was premeditated."]

Asked by our correspondent Shlomo Raz whether the peace process should be pursued, Rabin said that the negotiations must continue, a political solution must be secured, and terrorist attacks must be considerably reduced.

[Begin Rabin recording] It would be a serious mistake not to pursue the peace negotiations because, basically, the current reality can be changed only through one-sided moves, such as disengagement or isolation. In that event, we would be responsible for the livelihood of 1.8 or 2 million Palestinians, because we are the rulers there, with all the implications of such a move. Therefore, the process must continue and a political solution must be secured. Until then, all possible measures should be adopted to considerably reduce murderous terrorist attacks. [end recording]

Knesset Members Want Ban on Arabs

TA0103122293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] In the Knesset today, Knesset members [MK's] from both the left and right wings again demanded that Arab residents of the territories be prevented from entering Israel. Our Knesset affairs correspondent Udi Segal is here with the reactions.

[Begin recording] [Segal] Gaza first! This slogan was voiced today by MK's from across the entire political spectrum. Those on the right called for the immediate closure of the Gaza Strip and for a ban on the entrance of Arab workers into Israel, while several left-wing MK's called for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal. The Likud, Tzomet, and Moledet factions said that today's terrorist attack showed how badly the security situation had deteriorated. Here is Likud MK Moshe Qatzav.

[Qatzav] If one wants to guarantee the personal safety of Israel's citizens there is no alternative but to implement harsher policies and to take tougher steps against these terrorists. Young men under 30 should be banned from entering sovereign Israeli territory.

[Segal] Likud MK Tzahi Hanegbi plans to again present his proposed bill stipulating capital punishment for terrorists, including those who murder with cold steel weapons, such as knives and axes. Tzomet MK Gonen Segev said that since the root of the problem lies in the refugee camps, the peace process will not improve the security situation. MK Rehav'am Ze'evi from Moledet demanded that a total closure be imposed on the territories in retaliation for today's attack.

[Ze'evi] The most elementary and immediate reaction should be to stop the entry of Arabs from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip into Israel. They have no reason to be here! They ostensibly come to make a living and to work, but they break our heads and our hearts.

[Segal] The calls from the left demanded exactly the opposite. Meretz MK Ran Kohen said that at today's meeting of the Knesset Foreign and Defense Affairs Committee, he would call on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to order the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to unilaterally pull out of the Gaza Strip.

[Kohen] We will prepare ourselves for a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, whether a peace agreement is reached, or even in the absence of peace, something which would require a different kind of security deployment outside of the Gaza Strip and surrounding it.

[Segal] Labor MK Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, rejected both of the above demands. He asserted that only an intensive

campaign by the security forces, carried out parallel to progress in the peace process, could improve the security situation.

[Or] To my great regret, I can only say that we must continue fighting this phenomenon with the aid of the Shin Bet and the other security forces. We must apply the most careful screening process possible on those leaving the Gaza Strip. Despite today, which has definitely been a most tragic and painful day, we must not rush to implement hasty solutions such as closing off the Gaza Strip tomorrow morning.

[Segal] These were the reactions from the Knesset. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will begin its meeting in a short while. The first part of the session will most likely be devoted to a discussion of today's serious terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. [end recording]

Katyushas Fired at Northern Israel, Security Zone

TA2702054093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Several rounds of katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanon last night and early this morning at northern Israel and the south Lebanese security zone. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. Several katyushas landed in open fields in the northern part of the Galilee Panhandle.

Last night, a few katyushas landed near the border while several missiles landed in northern Israel approximately 90 minutes ago. A fire broke out but was extinguished by firefighters. Several rounds of katyusha fire were also directed at the security zone.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] fired at terrorist targets near the villages of Yatar and Tibnin.

IDF Shelling in Retaliation for Attack

TA2802204393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] artillery this evening shelled terrorist targets outside the security zone. The barrage came in retaliation for terrorist gunfire that was directed at an IDF patrol on operational activity in the eastern sector of the security zone earlier this evening.

Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the IDF shelling was directed at the area in which the terrorists were spotted moving. Our correspondent adds that an Israel Air Force helicopter gunship participated in the attack on the terrorists.

The REUTER news agency in Lebanon reported that a missile fired from the helicopter gunship hit a civilian Volkswagen van and killed the vehicle's driver.

Sources Say IDF To Avoid Escalating Situation in North

TA2702202893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Katyushas were lobbed last night and this morning from Lebanon. Israel wants to avoid heating up the atmosphere along the northern border and does not view the events on Friday and Saturday [26 and 27 February] as a new stage in the struggle against Hizballah. Senior sources told our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik that despite the Katyusha attacks, Israel will avoid any escalation along the border in the near future so as not to impede the reconvening of the peace talks. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports from the north:

[Begin recording] ['Eden] [passage omitted] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is paying close attention to the shelling from Lebanon and has warned the political echelon that a sharper reaction is required. Will a greater effort be called for in the coming weeks, Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the northern command?

[Mordekhay] The soldiers know how to deal with such an effort. We are more active than before in foiling Hizballah's attempted attacks as far north as possible and in preventing them from being perpetrated here along the border.

['Eden] What has been developing in the north during the past few weeks, and especially recent days, is clearly a war of attrition, even if it is being called things like battle days and nights on the alert. Do you not think that Hizballah is being more daring while we are being less and less aggressive against them?

[Mordekhay] I do not think so. I have just noted the results over the past month or two. They had fatalities, all the clashes ended successfully for us, and it seems that life on the other side was significantly upset. They tried any way they could to achieve something, and yet failed. The government will decide what measures to take and we will implement the steps decided on. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Our army affairs correspondent Beni Liss reports that Israeli Air Force helicopter gunships fired at terrorist targets in the Tuffah area following SLA [South Lebanese Army] shelling on terrorists who tried to attack their post. Military sources said that the terrorists are initiating shellings in the wake of their failure to overtake SLA posts. The IDF also thinks that the latest shelling on Galilee settlements was in response to Prime Minister Rabin's declaration that Israel is moving toward peace within a year. Israel called on the Lebanese Army to prevent Hizballah from shelling from north of the security zone.

Police Chief Resigns; Cabinet Approves Successor

TA2802103093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Following a series of moves bearing on senior police appointments this morning, the cabinet approved the appointment of Commander Rafi Peled as the next Israel Police commissioner. Police Minister Shahal's proposal, which had been approved by the prime minister, was endorsed by a majority of ministers. Five ministers abstained: Bar'am, Namir, Aloni, Sarid, and Rubinstein.

Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that in the course of this morning's cabinet meeting, Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner advised the cabinet that having learned of Rafi Peled's appointment as his successor, he wished to terminate his employment at once. All the ministers appealed to Terner to remain in his position until the end of his term, but he did not respond, and his final decision is therefore unknown. [passage omitted]

Border Police Officer Stabbed; Arab Assailant Caught

TA2602162193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A Border Police officer sustained light wounds when he was stabbed in the back tonight by an Arab youth near Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that the wounded officer chased the assailant and caught him. An emergency medical team treated the officer and transferred him to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Gaza Residents Murdered; Fatah Fugitive Captured

TA2702095493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Early this morning, the security sources captured Ibrahim Muhammad Dariyah, a member of the Fatah organization from the village of 'Aqrabah, near Nabulus, who has been wanted for approximately one year on suspicion of having participated in the murders of local residents suspected of cooperating with the authorities. Military sources told our correspondent Moti Amir that the terrorist tried to flee from one of the houses in the village and was shot and moderately injured. Several villagers were arrested together with him. Three revolvers and two makeshift bombs were discovered during a search of the house.

Two residents were murdered in the Gaza Strip last night, apparently after being suspected of cooperating with the authorities. Nasir Muslih was murdered in Gaza city and Yusri Salamah was murdered in Khan Yunus.

Four Gazans Killed; Nine Arabs, Two Guards Wounded

TA2702203993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Two guards in a packing house in Pardesiyah were attacked before dawn by a Gazan worker also employed there. One of the guards sustained medium to serious wounds, while the other sustained light injuries. The attacker acted for nationalist motives. [passage omitted]

Four Arabs were murdered in the Gaza Strip by masked men over the weekend after being suspected of collaborating with Israel. Palestinian sources reported that six Gazans were shot and wounded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] during disturbances. The IDF spokesman reported that only one person was admitted to the hospital.

Three residents of the village of 'Aqqabah in the Nabulus area were shot by soldiers during activity initiated by security forces searching for fugitives.

A soldier was slightly hurt when a shot was accidently fired by another soldier who tripped during a search for a group of stone throwers in Ramallah.

Gaza Residents Killed as Suspected Collaborators

TA0103120793

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 1 March carries three reports on the 28 February incidents in the territories.

A page 1 report by Yo'av Kaspi states: "The stabbed body of 29-year-old Mustafa Ramda Mustafa Qarmut, a resident of the Gaza neighborhood of Bayt Lahiyah, was brought yesterday afternoon to al- Shifa' Hospital in the Gaza Strip. According to one theory, he had been suspected of collaboration with Israel. In the same hospital, Haydar Muhammad Harif from Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood yesterday died of the critical injuries sustained on 27 February at the hands of local residents who suspected him of collaborating with Israel."

The report adds that "a border policeman was yesterday slightly injured by stones thrown at a Border Police patrol in Nabulus."

An ITIM report on page 4 adds: "Haydar Muhammad al-Qurays, 25, from the Rimal neighborhood in Gaza, died yesterday morning of wounds inflicted by border policemen's gunfire on 25 February." The report further states that al-Qurays, who was working on the roof of a building, was shot by accident as "border policemen fired at a car" from which shots had been earlier fired at a patrol.

ITIM further reports that "eight Arab residents sustained slight injuries when troops dispersed disturbances in Khan Yunus and the al-Burayj refugee camp. They

were treated in al-Shifa' and al-Nasir Hospitals in Khan Yunus. A general strike is observed in the Gaza Strip in keeping with a leaflet disseminated by the Unified Leadership of the Intifadah some two weeks ago."

Writing on page 5, Yo'av Kaspi reports: "An Arab Israeli woman, who was riding an Israeli cab, sustained medium injuries yesterday afternoon after a stone hit the cab in the Bayt Jala junction in Bethlehem District."

"A number of shots were fired yesterday afternoon at an Egged bus and a van near the al-Askar refugee camp in Nabulus. No one was hurt and no damage was caused."

"A Molotov cocktail was thrown yesterday morning at an Army outpost in Qalqilyah. The bottle shattered and ignited on the roof of an adjacent building. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The soldiers fired back."

Civil Administration Publishes Budget in Territories

TA2802085493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Feb 93 p A8

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has decided that the budget of the West Bank and Gaza Strip Civil Administration will henceforth be made public. The decision was made in the wake of months-long discussions and of the recommendation of Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of activities in the territories.

Official Civil Administration sources said that the step is not related to the goodwill gestures discussed during U.S. secretary of state's visit to Israel. Rather, it was an attempt to evince "openness and goodwill toward the Palestinian population in the territories."

The Civil Administration's budget has been never published officially. The budget requires the approval of a joint board composed of Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees members. Incidentally, the State Attorney's Office stated in reply to a High Court of Justice appeal several months ago that "the law implemented in the territories does not require the Civil Administration to publish its budget."

One of the reasons for the decision to publish the budget stems from Palestinian residents' allegations that a part of the Civil Administration's revenue from taxes levied from territories residents is funneled to the state treasury, and is not spent "for the benefit of the territories."

This year, the total budget of the Civil Administration in the territories stands at 827 million shekels. In the West Bank, the operating budget stands at 489 million shekels and the development budget at 77 million shekels. The Gaza Strip Civil Administration has an operating budget of 233 million shekels and a development budget of 65 million shekels.

The two areas' total budget consists of a state treasury allocation of approximately 105 million and of the Civil Administration's revenue from taxes and fees standing at approximately 722 million shekels.

Correction to Peres on Palestinian Stand

TA2802132993

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Peres on Palestinian Stand," published in the 26 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 24 and 25: Page 25, column one, from paragraph eight, only sentence make read///of our situation.

[Herschlag] Will Israel change///...correcting speaker's name.

Foreign Minister Buwayz on Current Issues

On Christopher's Visit, Peace Talks

NC2602185093 London MBC Television in Arabic 1740 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Jad al-Akhawi in Beirut on the "The World This Week" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Akhawi] Would you tell us something about U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Beirut and his tour of the region?

[Buwayz] It is natural for all states to insist on equal treatment in terms of sovereignty and national dignity. That is why we insisted that any meeting with Christopher take place in Beirut, or in Lebanon in general. The visit reflects U.S. adherence to Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

[Al-Akhawi] It is assumed that you and Secretary Christopher discussed issues like the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 425 and 799. What was the American position on this?

[Buwayz] In fact, our talks covered many topics. Primarily, they dealt with the peace process, the U.S. original assertions regarding the essence of the peace conference, and new assertions concerning the mechanism of the peace conference. The importance of an active U.S. role in the peace process was also emphasized. There was also a point about Lebanon in particular; it was mentioned in the letters of assurances that constitute the bases of the talks. In those letters, the United States emphasized its commitment to Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders. The United States, therefore, committed itself to the implementation of Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal to these borders. Secretary Christopher renewed these commitments and emphasized the continuity with the policy of the previous U.S. Administration.

As far as Resolution 799 is concerned, I believe the United States will try to improve the terms of implementing this resolution in time.

[Al-Akhawi] What was Christopher's position on the reopening of the U.S. Consulate, removing the travel restrictions on Americans visiting Lebanon, re-allowing the Middle East Airlines to use the New York route, and helping Lebanon receive international loans?

[Buwayz] Of course, the improved security situation in Lebanon—it is now similar to the security situation in any civilized country—allows many of the measures taken by the U.S. Administration to be reconsidered. As far as bilateral relations, we discussed the return of the Middle East Airlines to its previous activity on Lebanese-American routes. We also discussed the reopening of the U.S. Consulate in Beirut, American training of Lebanese Army officers, and the United States helping supply the Army with some equipment or vehicles. The U.S. side said it was ready to reconsider these measures in accordance with the new reassuring security situation in Lebanon.

[Al-Akhawi] Do you expect the negotiating process to resume soon?

[Buwayz] We have not received an invitation to resume negotiations. However, I believe the new U.S. Administration is committed to the peace conference, its bases, and its mechanism. I think it will take serious action to push the negotiations process ahead very soon. In fact, I expect renewed efforts to have them resumed. As we have heard from the American side, a new initiative will be proposed to break the current stalemate.

[Al-Akhawi] Are there new proposals to resume negotiations, or will the resumption be based on the old foundation?

[Buwayz] No. The old foundation can be seen as the constitution of the peace conference. This constitution involves several parties. Hence, changing the bases, or any article thereof might make certain parties feel as though they could break free from these bases. Therefore, it is impossible to review the conference's objectives, bases, or mechanism. No one has proposed such a review. All that was required was to renew assurances by a new U.S. Administration that had not directly committed itself before. This assurance was made on the basis of a sustainable U.S. policy.

Lebanon's boycott of the multilaterals is not absolute. The boycott was not based on the subject or essence of these negotiations; rather, it was based on their timing. We believe the multilaterals are complementary to the peace process. However, now is not the right time to engage in such negotiations. It would have been better to have waited for the bilaterals to have made essential and concrete progress. When this happens, we will have no objection to participation in multilaterals.

[Al-Akhawi] One last question: Under Clinton's administration, is there a change in U.S. policy on the Middle East?

[Buwayz] I have repeatedly said that the policy of major states, and maybe even small states, is not built on personal decision as much as on collective decisions by different quarters, which together form the final and fixed decision. There are many decisionmaking centers in the United States, including the White House, the president, the State Department, the Defense Department, universities and cultural centers, intellectual centers, the Senate, and the Congress. Therefore, I do not think U.S. policy changes according to changing circumstances. Of course, every department has its own approach, but I do not think different approaches have an impact on the essential issues.

More on Christopher, Syrian Redeployment

NC2702140493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the mechanism for implementing UN Resolution 425 occupied an important portion of Lebanese officials' talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his visit to Lebanon. Buwayz said that the redeployment of Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon was on the agenda of talks with Christopher, who noted the tangible progress in the fields of security, reconciliation, and unity in Lebanon. Buwayz added: He mentioned some points that need to be addressed, including the redeployment issue, which was not raised as a topic for argument, but was mentioned in the context of Lebanon's accomplishments in various fields.

Buwayz added: The Lebanese side stressed that the al-Ta'if Accord has both a Lebanese part, which the Lebanese have implemented, and an Arab and international part, which needs contributions from others. The second part includes the issue of Lebanon's reconstruction and the implementation of Resolution 425. We have emphasized that the Lebanese state is endeavoring to establish its sovereignty using its own resources as fast as possible.

Buwayz pointed out that the state's position on resistance is clear. He said: The state does not have a clear-cut, public, and scheduled confirmation or commitment regarding the full withdrawal of the Israeli army from the south. So long as the Army does not have such a political weapon, it cannot ask any Lebanese citizen to stop expressing his rejection of the occupation.

On Lebanese-Iranian ties, Buwayz noted that they have developed noticeably recently and are getting stronger by the day. He added: Iran is now more open to various forces, sects, and regions in Lebanon, and we seek to make this openness a comprehensive one that is not restricted to certain Lebanese factions.

On Resistance, PLO, Iranian Ties

NC2702122893 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Speaking on Radio Free Lebanon's "Talk With an Official" program, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said he expects a change in Palestinian representation in the bilateral talks so that PLO representatives will gradually join the Palestinian delegation.

He added that if Lebanon does not participate in the peace conference it will be isolated from international and regional resolutions. He noted that there is hope for implementation of Resolution 425.

He said that Lebanon's stand on resistance is obvious and that the state so far has no clear, public, or programmed assertion and commitment to secure the Israeli Army's complete withdrawal from the south. He remarked that as long as the state has no such political weapon, it cannot ask citizens to stop expressing rejection of the occupation, as he put it.

Buwayz said that Lebanese-Iranian relations have developed palpably recently and are strengthening day by day. He added that Iran has a new vision of Lebanon's national unity, sovereignty, and independence, and the government's effort to liberate the south.

Fadlallah Denounces U.S. Policy, Warns of Separate Peace

NC2702080093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denounced the United States' role in the bilateral negotiations and its request to Arab countries to participate in the multilateral negotiations to give the enemy an opportunity to meddle in the affairs of all Arab countries.

His eminence said the United States is not a neutral country and he attacked Israel's agents, saying that those agents who spy for Israel are the filthiest people in the country. He disapproved of the U.S. secretary of state's call to disarm the resistance, especially the Islamic Resistance, without calling for the enemy's withdrawal.

Fadlallah said the current U.S. policy calls for applying pressure on the Arabs and Palestinians to make them give in to Israel and urges the Arabs not to link the negotiations with the deportees' return. He added that current Arab, U.S., and Israeli policies warn of what they call the fundamentalist line, because the Islamists refuse U.S. control over Arab and Islamic resources.

He warned the Palestinians of the U.S.-Israeli ploy to foment sedition among the Palestinians and warned the Arabs that some of them might be dragged into a separate peace with Israel.

Deportees Spokesman al-Rantisi on Current Issues

Doubts Peace Talks To Resume in April

NC2702072993 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has said he does not expect the peace talks to resume in April unless the deportees issue has been solved. He called for an immediate Security Council session to implement Resolution 799 and adopt measures to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Seeks 'Collective Return' of Deportees

NC2802085493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has expressed confidence that Arab cordon states foreign ministers who are scheduled

to meet in Damascus soon will not fail their people, will support the deportees' cause, and will not let the Zionist enemy succeed in its effort to sideline and annul Resolution 799.

At a news conference, he said the cordon states foreign ministers' stance will support implementing Resolution 799 before bilateral talks resume in Washington. He praised Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's statement at his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, when he said it is impossible to transcend the deportees issue.

Al-Rantisi reaffirmed that the deportees refuse all U.S. attempts to split Resolution 799 and insist on their collective return.

Views 6-Point Plan: Focus on 799

NC2802134693 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Commenting on the United States' six-point proposal to solve the deportees issue, Palestinian deportees spokesman Dr. 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-Rantisi said: We are interested only in one of the six points—that which pertains to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799. So I see no interest in complicating things.

On the point concerning the resolution's implementation, he said: If it is taken alone, it is positive, but if it is linked with other points, it is negative. So I will make it easy for Rabin and his government and demand the implementation of only one of the six points—Resolution 799.

On the invitation to the PLO to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting to discuss the deportees issue, al-Rantisi hoped that this will result in the adoption of the necessary measures by the cordon states to ensure the return of the deportees to their homes. He emphasized their firm position that all want to return.

Reportage on Recent Violence in Area

Two SLA Soldiers Injured in Attack

NC2602152793 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol reconnoitering the road near Sujud was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns this afternoon. Anti-armor Sagger missiles were fired at the same time at an SLA post in Sujud, slightly injuring two SLA soldiers, who remained in their post.

Following this, the saboteurs fired several Katyusha rockets at the eastern sector of the border area. There were no casualties.

Local radio stations reported that Israeli military helicopters attacked and destroyed a Hizballah position in Jarju' this afternoon.

Israeli Activity in South

NC2602203293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the south reports that the Israeli occupation troops brought to their position on the al-Ahmadiyah hills overlooking western al-Biqa' one Merkava tank, an MU-13 troop carrier, three trucks, and about 40 soldiers at 1430 today. Shortly before that, Israeli helicopters overflew the Kawkabah hills, al-Hasbani basin, Ibil al-Saqiy, and Marj 'Uyun.

The Israeli positions along the al-Hasbani front fired heavy-caliber machine guns at Mimis sector and al-Dahr hills around noon today. The area of al-Jabal al-Awsat came under 10 shells at dawn and sustained material damage.

Katyushas Fired at Security Strip

NC2702072093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Three Katyusha shells were fired at the security strip in the south last night. A fourth shell landed near 'Arab Salim village on the outskirts of which the Lebanese Army is deployed.

The Voice of the South Radio of Major General Lahd's forces said the Katyushas were fired from areas under Lebanese Army control and advised the Lebanese Government to stop these provocative acts, as the radio put it.

Earlier, the resistance shelled the Sujud Post and Israeli helicopters carried out two raids on Hizballah positions in Jarju' without causing casualties.

Israeli Bulldozers Operating in South

NC2702124993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that two Israeli bulldozers began to operate this morning near al-Suwayda' Hill, where an Israeli force is deployed.

An atmosphere of extreme caution prevails in the south and western al-Biqa' in the wake of a noticeable escalation overnight and early this morning. [passage omitted]

Israeli Artillery Shells Towns

NC2702183893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Israeli artillery shelled the towns of Mlita and Jarju' at about 1530 today. Our correspondent in the south reports that two Israeli bulldozers were at work today to reinforce an Israeli position on al-Suwayda' hill.

Israeli Helicopters Attack Van

NC2802170993 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Security sources in western al-Biqa' have informed AFP that two Israeli Cobra Helicopters bombarded a civilian van at the Zillaya junction. The vehicle's owner, town resident 'Ali 'Aql, was killed and a passenger wounded.

Meanwhile, a state of high tension continues in several Iqlim al-Tuffah areas following midday clashes in Tallat al-Radar and Jabal Safi area between Islamic Resistance elements and Israeli troops. Yitzhaq Mordakhai, the commander of the Israeli Army's Northern Command, threatened to continue shelling southern Lebanon to retaliate for the military operations against his units.

Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah has remarked that the state's position on the resistance falls below the required level of responsibility. He explained that when the authorities believe that it is their duty to extend state control and make plans on behalf of the people, then this signifies they are falling behind in carrying out their duties.

Islamic Resistance, Hizballah Carry Out Attacks

NC2802184193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A security source said that the Israeli raid was carried out in retaliation for the Islamic Resistance's attack on an Israeli patrol near Dallafah. The source said that a clash involving machine guns and antitank weapons ensued between the Israeli forces and resistance men. There have been no immediate reports on casualties.

According to security sources in the south, Hizballah fighters attacked the South Lebanese Army's [SLA] radar position in Sujud today. Machine guns and rockets were used in the attack, which caused no casualties. The sources added that the SLA's artillery fired well over 30 shells at four villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Islamic Resistance Kills Two Soldiers

NC0103080093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Citizen 'Ali 'Aql was martyred and another was wounded yesterday in an Israeli helicopter raid on their car on the road between Qilya and Zillaya. The occupation forces' heavy artillery shelled the Qilya hills and the outskirts of Dallafah, Yuhmur, and Zillaya villages.

The Islamic Resistance said in a statement that one of its groups ambushed and directed heavy fire at an Israeli mechanized force as it advanced in al-Na'imah, Western al-Biqa', thereby recording a heroic epic. The statement added that the mujahidin killed two Zionist soldiers, wounded three others, and burned a Merkava tank.

REUTER said the resistance men attacked an Israeli occupation forces position on Dallafah hills and clashed with its personnel. The agency added that the occupation forces directed machine-gun fire at the hills adjacent to Zillaya. [passage omitted]

Deputy Prime Minister al-Murr Departs for Damascus

NC0103093193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Engineer Michel al-Murr left for Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian officials on recent developments.

Al-Hirawi Receives Message From Russian Leadership

NC2702121893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received a special message from the Russian leadership today.

Russian Ambassador Gennadiy Ilichev, who delivered the message, said it deals with the general situation and international and regional developments.

Reportage on Foreign Minister al-Shar' Visit to France

On Talks With Christopher, French Leaders

PM2602153093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Feb 93 p6

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Randah Taqiyy al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Taqiyy al-Din] Why did you ask to visit France at this awkward time coinciding with the end of the Socialist government's reign? What do you expect from France at this stage?

[Al-Shar'] Actually, Roland Dumas extended an invitation to me some time ago but I had many engagements in Syria in the past two months. I requested a postponement of the visit until the flow of visitors eased. My visit is in the context of what was agreed during Minister Dumas' visit to Damascus in February last year when we agreed to exchange regular visits between the foreign ministers of the two countries. This means that the meetings agreed upon by the foreign ministries of the two countries will continue regardless of the election results. That is what I heard from officials other than the French foreign minister.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you discuss bilateral relations with President Mitterrand, bearing in mind that French-Syrian relations have always been difficult and sometimes tense?

[Al-Shar'] President Mitterrand reaffirmed to me his interest in French-Syrian relations. It was clear from the discussion of the topics raised that he was clearly interested in Syria's role in the Middle East. He also expressed interest in meeting with President al-Asad but we did not discuss the date or venue of such a meeting.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did he extend an invitation to President al-Asad?

[Al-Shar'] We did not discuss anything specific. He just expressed an interest in meeting President al-Asad.

[Taqiyy al-Din] What role could France, with its limited resources, play in the peace negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] France may not have many resources to enable it to play an effective role, particularly in the peace process, but France is still an important European state. Furthermore, as a permanent member of the Security Council, it has special responsibilities as far as implementation of Security Council resolutions are concerned. In that respect it could play a useful part in helping the parties directly and indirectly concerned with the peace process. I do not believe that there is a conflict between the foundations on which the peace process was based at the Madrid conference and the French views on the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region and implementation of the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Taqiyy al-Din] At your joint press conference with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, you said that there was no contradiction between continuing the peace negotiations and upholding the deportees cause. Does this mean that you would participate in the peace negotiations even if the Palestinians and the Jordanians decided not to do so as long as the deportees issue remained unresolved?

[Al-Shar'] From the beginning of the deportees problem some people have been giving the wrong impression in their handling of this matter, making it appear that the Arab insistence on the peace process was appeasement to Israel and that boycotting the peace process was a punishment for Israel, but the facts disprove that theory, not to say contradict it. It is a known fact that Israel was forced to go to the Madrid conference whereas Syria went there with full political willingness in order to compel Israel, in the context of the Madrid conference, to implement the UN Security Council resolutions. Anyone wishing to punish Israel for the deportation should concentrate on the implementation of all the Security Council resolutions (including) Resolution 799 on the deportees—resume the peace process for the implementation of the other Security Council resolutions without bargaining or being lenient on Resolution 799.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Does this mean that if the the analysis of the other Arab parties differed from yours and they decided to boycott the negotiations, you would still go ahead with the negotiations with Israel?

[Al-Shar'] We are interested in a unified Arab stance and in a comprehensive solution, and we are also interested in the resumption of the peace process in a comfortable and suitable atmosphere. In our view, that cannot be achieved unless all the deportees return to their homes and families.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Do you believe that the repatriation of the deportees is now possible in accordance with unannounced solutions?

[Al-Shar'] We submitted a proposal to Secretary Christopher for the return of all the deportees. He promised to study it.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Would they be repatriated in stages?

[Al-Shar'] No. We are for the full repatriation of all the deportees and are against dividing the solution. I will not go into any details on this until the U.S. position becomes clear.

[Taqiyy al-Din] In your talks with Secretary Christopher, did you sense that the Clinton administration was prepared to cross Syria's name off the terrorism list? Were they willing to stop their pressure on you regarding human rights?

[Al-Shar'] First of all, on the question of the terrorism list, we take a clear position which differentiates between terrorism which should be condemned and legitimate struggle against occupation. Our position has not changed. If the United States believes that position is wrong, that is its business but that remains our firm position.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you discuss that with Christopher?

[Al-Shar'] That position was clearly stated in our talks with Christopher. As regards human rights, we believe that no state in the world, not even a superpower interested in a new world order, has a right to dictate the political regimes of other states. It suffices to say that, although it claims to be the leader of Western democracy, the United States resorted to acts of repression when the Los Angeles incidents occurred. It deployed the army in the streets despite the fact that the demonstrators were unarmed. Hundreds were killed or wounded. The conclusion which must be drawn is that the aim of putting Syria's name on the terrorism list and raising the issue of human rights is to put pressure on Syria to change its position. We in Syria do not give in to any pressure from any source.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Some Arab parties suspect that you have come a long way in your negotiations with Israel and that you will sign a peace agreement with Israel before the others. What is your comment on that, and has there been real progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Shar'] I am sorry to say that these suspicions are unfounded. I believe that they stem from the fact that Syria plays a leading role in the peace process and in defense of Arab interests, but they are not based on objective grounds. The proof is that the Palestinian and Jordanian sides in the peace negotiations have taken steps not taken by Syria towards Israel. For instance, the Palestinian brothers have on more than one occasion expressed a desire to meet with Israeli officials outside the framework of the Washington bilateral peace negotiations while Syria refused to do that. Furthermore, our Jordanian brothers reached a joint declaration of principles with Israel several months ago but so far we have reached no such joint declaration. At any rate and regardless of the doubts which Israel tries to plant in the Arab ranks and the attempts by some Arabs to contribute to that, we in Syria insist on a comprehensive solution and on Arab coordination, and we shoulder our responsibilities by helping to regain Arab rights and by serving the Arab interests as a whole, regardless of whether or not these suspicions continue.

[Taqiyy al-Din] It has been reported that the foreign ministers of the cordon states will meet soon. When and where will the meeting take place?

[Al-Shar'] The cordon states' foreign ministers will meet. We have not agreed on the date yet but it will be in Damascus with the aim of coordinating and unifying our positions and making the necessary decisions for the next phase.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you discuss the issue of the redeployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon with Secretary Christopher? You said yesterday that the redeployment issue was a Syrian-Lebanese bilateral issue but in a signed letter to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal after the al-Ta'if agreement you confirmed that the required withdrawals would be implemented. What about that matter?

[Al-Shar'] True, there is a document between the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers but it talks neither about Syrian withdrawals from Lebanon nor about redeployment because the al-Ta'if agreement is clear on what is required of Syria and what is required of Israel. Therefore, the issue of the Syrian presence and the discussion of that issue are still a Syrian-Lebanese affair.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you discuss the issue with Christopher?

[Al-Shar'] In passing.

[Taqiyy al-Din] The U.S. Administration always wants to know why Syria has not exerted enough efforts to disarm Hizballah in Lebanon. The al-Ta'if agreement stipulates that all the militias should be disarmed. What is your comment?

[Al-Shar'] The al-Ta'if agreement states that the militias, not the Lebanese resistance, should be disarmed.

[Taqiyy al-Din] So, in your view, Hizballah represents the Lebanese resistance.

[Al-Shar'] On the admission not only of Lebanon and the Arab states but also of Israel. So long as it resists the Israeli occupation, it should be called the resistance.

[Taqiyy al-Din] We have been told that the French president reaffirmed to you that France insists on Iraq's unity. Why does this issue worry you ?

[Al-Shar'] There is general Arab concern about the possibility of partition of Iraq because of the two no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq. We fear that this may lead to the partition of Iraq. The main aim of the Syrian-Turkish-Iranian tripartite meetings was and still is coordination of the efforts of the states neighboring Iraq to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity and ensure its safety. We believe that these tripartite meetings have contributed to a large extent to alerting some Iraqi opposition parties to the danger of Iraq's partition. We in Syria have received messages from a number of Iraqi opposition parties emphasizing that they have no intention of partitioning Iraq and that they support Iraq's unity. That in itself is a positive sign and an important result of the tripartite meetings.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Can Iraq remain united under Saddam Husayn's regime? If the answer is negative, what is the solution?

[Al-Shar'] That is a very complex question and I do not believe that any state has an accurate answer to it

because what is required is Iraq's commitment to the Security Council resolutions and also that the Iraqi people should not be punished because of their rulers' policies. It is not easy to reconcile the two parts of the equation.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Does Iran now pose a threat to the states of the region, particularly as Iraq is now weak, and, as an ally of Iran, what calming role does Syria play?

[Al-Shar'] There can be no doubt that Syria cares about Gulf security and about the stability of the Arab states. That is confirmed in the Damascus Declaration which was signed by Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states. Furthermore, in all our contacts with the Iranians, we reaffirmed that Syrian concern, and they in turn emphasized that they cared very much about the Gulf's security and wanted the best relations with the GCC states. Negative statements are sometimes made by one side or another, but against that, positive statements are issued by both sides about their common interest in joint cooperation and in safeguarding the Gulf's security. I do not believe that exaggeration of anxiety is useful to either side. They need one another and they have common interests. Friendly dialogue serves these interests but tension serves neither side.

Meets With European Troika Group

JN2602192593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Brussels, 26 Feb (SANA)—A session of official talks between the Syrian side, headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the European side, represented by the European Troika and headed by Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helweg Pedersen was held in Brussels today.

Van den Broek, the EC commissioner for foreign and security affairs, took part in the meeting.

Discussion dealt with developments in the region, the peace process, and the issue of deportees. Discussion also focused on various aspects of Syrian-EC relations. The European side expressed its willingness to strengthen and develop these relations in the interest of both sides. It also assessed Syria's important role in the region.

On the sidelines of the Syrian-European talks, Faruq al-Shar' and Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, held a meeting during which they reviewed the prospects of the peace process in light of the deportees' issue. Talks also dealt with the overall situation in the region.

Meets With Arab Ambassadors

JN2602205493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night conferred with Arab ambassadors accredited to Belgium and the EC at a banquet given by Miss Siba Nasir, the Syrian ambassador in Brussels. The minister and the ambassadors discussed regional developments, the peace process, and the expellees issue.

Grants Interview

PM0103090493 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Feb 93 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Claude Lorieux in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Lorieux] Europe, and especially France, definitely have a role to play in the Israel-Arab peace process. But that does entirely explain your first official visit to Paris, a month before the elections!

[Al-Shar'] I came at Roland Dumas' invitation. We agreed during his visit to Damascus that France's and Syria's foreign ministers should meet once a year.

[Lorieux] That may be. But why a month before the elections?

[Al-Shar'] I should have come sooner. But we have been very busy in Damascus in recent months. You ask me, why now? Why before an election that could bring the Socialists down? Relations with France are important for us, no matter which majority is in power in Paris.

[Lorieux] People say you came to Paris to prepare for a visit to France by President Hafiz al-Asad.

[Al-Shar'] That is not true. The fact is that the two presidents want to meet. This is President al-Asad's feeling. President Mitterrand told me the same when he received me Tuesday.

[Lorieux] Syria owes France 1.2 billion francs. Would your visit not have been more successful if you had made a gesture to settle the debt?

[Al-Shar'] We want to resolve it. But I would point out to you that this sum is not very large and that, compared to that of other countries, Syria's foreign debt is not very large.

[Lorieux] Precisely. If the debt is not very large it should be easier to settle.'

[Al-Shar'] Yes. Among other things, I asked Roland Dumas to send a delegation to Damascus to find a solution. I do not have the impression that these financial issues are curbing the improvement of Franco-Syrian relations.

[Lorieux] Israel's expulsion of 400 Palestinians to Lebanon is blocking the peace process. If, in the absence of an agreement, the Palestinians refuse to resume the negotiations, will Syria follow their example?

[Al-Shar'] We have not tied our participation in the peace talks to developments in the matter of the expelled. We have said that

all the expelled must return home, as required by UN Resolution 799. The United States, which approved it, must want it to be implemented.

[Lorieux] But will you attend the peace talks even if the Palestinians do not?

[Al-Shar'] Some people think that the Arabs attended the Madrid talks and the subsequent bilateral talks reluctantly. That is untrue. So it is inconceivable to say now: "I will punish Israel by not attending the peace talks."

After all, the aim of these talks is the restitution of the occupied Arab territories and the safeguarding of the Palestinians' national rights. We have three UN resolutions—799, which concerns the expelled; and 242 and 338, which concern the general situation in the region. We demand the implementation of these three resolutions.

[Lorieux] The Jordanians and Palestinians suspect you of wanting to conclude your negotiations with Israel without waiting for them!

[Al-Shar'] These suspicions are unfounded. We want a comprehensive settlement. If we had wanted a separate peace, we could have achieved it years ago. If more attention is paid to the Syrian-Israeli negotiations than to the others, it is because there can be no peace without Syria.

[Lorieux] American Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed surprise that the Syrian Army has not been redeployed, as envisaged by the al-Ta'if accords, from Lebanon's coastal plain toward the eastern plain of al-Biqa'.

[Al-Shar'] There is a misunderstanding. First, the al-Ta'if agreement does not set any specific date for the Syrian forces' redeployment. Second, this matter is the sole responsibility of the Syrian and Lebanese Governments, which are bound by the al-Ta'if accords and the Treaty of Fraternity and Cooperation.

[Lorieux] Did this explanation satisfy Mr. Christopher?

[Al-Shar'] I have not heard that he disagreed. When two countries agree on something, why should others interfere? The European countries are integrating. Why should coordination be strange between Syria and Lebanon? That is illogical! [Lorieux] Turkey is reopening its embassy in Baghdad. Egypt, too. Will Syria follow suit?

[Al-Shar] I do not think so. We have agreed with the Turks, Iranians, and Egyptians that Iraq's unity and territorial integrity are essential to the countries of the region. We support the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Iraq. But we want to alleviate the Iraqi people's suffering.

[Lorieux] How can the people be spared without dealing with Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Shar'] It is not easy, I agree.

[Lorieux] New rumors are circulating about President al-Asad's state of health.

[Al-Shar'] These rumors are totally unfounded. The president has not even had a cold. In my opinion, it is years since he was in such good health.

Returns From Belgium, France Tour

JN2702063793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus early this morning after concluding an official visit to Belgium, during which he held official talks with Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes. Al-Shar' also met with Mr. Van den Broek, EC commissioner for foreign and security affairs. [passage omitted]

DPRK People's Assembly Delegation Departs

JN2602180393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus today after a visit to Syria of several days.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the People's Assembly's Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Korean ambassador in Damascus.

In statements he made to a SANA correspondent, Yang expressed his admiration for Syria's great accomplishments in various fields, under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to build a modern Syria.

He emphasized the DPRK's solidarity with and full support for the Syrian people's just struggle, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, to reach a just solution to the Middle East issue and to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Yang described the results of his talks with senior officials in Syria as successful and fruitful, noting that these talks will contribute toward developing and consolidating bilateral friendship and cooperation relations, the pillars of which were founded by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Kim Il-song.

Yang expressed his country's appreciation for Syria's—people's and leadership's—stands in support of the Korean people's struggle to achieve their national unity.

Cabinet Discusses 1993 Draft State Budget

JN2602153793 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 17 Feb 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus—The Council of Ministers held a session at 1100 yesterday [16 February] under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. The meeting was attended

by Comrade Mustafa al-'Ayid, head of the Peasants General Union, the representative of the General Federation of Trade Unions, the head of the Central Commission for Scrutiny and Inspection, the governor of the Central Bank of Syria, the assistant planning minister, and the director of the Central Statistics Bureau.

During the meeting, the Council of Ministers discussed the draft state budget for 1993, whose allocations are estimated at 121.874 billion Syrian pounds.

The draft state budget for 1993 points out that new income and production sources will be created to provide new job opportunities, curb inflation and its negative effects, and achieve greater justice in the distribution of national income. The draft state budget has been prepared within the state's general orientations seeking to achieve self-reliance, rationalize consumption, and augment and make the best use of national revenues.

The draft state budget also notes that the required allocations for the implementation of investment projects under contracts will be made available. Also, the required allocations for the projects of goods sectors, which have amounted to 64 percent of the total allocations for investment purposes in 1993, will be provided.

During the meeting, the prime minister affirmed that work must continue to achieve a balance between revenues and expenses. He affirmed that in principle, this requires that the state budget for 1993 be set within the limits of the available revenues, considering that the state budget is a reflection of our social and economic policy.

He indicated that the basic features of the state budget clearly indicate the soundness of our objective to achieve self-sufficiency and a balanced and continuous development process.

The prime minister indicated the lengthy and intense meetings that have been held and the efforts that have been exerted to make the general state budget successful, so that the budget would be the correct instrument of financial planning. He said that this makes it possible to promote our national economy and meet our people's requirements and basic needs.

Media Commentaries, Reviews View Peace Talks

Success Depends on U.S. Role

JN2602160493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. secretary of state has announced that he agreed with his Russian counterpart on extending invitations to resume the bilateral peace talks in Washington in April. Before leaving occupied Jerusalem, Warren Christopher said that he sensed a strong willingness by all parties to resume the talks, but there are still obstacles that should be removed.

It is clear that the issue of expelling Palestinians and the mounting Israeli violence in the occupied Arab territories top the list of these obstacles. The U.S. secretary, who pledged an effective U.S. role and full participantion, is looking forward to detente if not a positive air that will precede the peace talks in Washington.

It is well-known to all that Rabin's expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians at one time and in a provocative manner was not aimed at dealing a blow to the intifadah activists, as he claims, as much as it was aimed at obstructing the peace process. The expellees include a great number of sick, elderly, and disabled people, and most of them are university professors and scientists. However, their expulsion did not weaken the intifadah. Indeed, it added to its persistence, presence, and effectiveness, thus foiling Rabin's pretext and exposing his true motive. The truth was further exposed when Rabin resorted to escalating his war against the Palestinians by killing innocent people and children, shooting at the backs of citizens running away from the violence, and demolishing entire Arab neighborhoods with antitank rockets. This triggered strong protests by the international community. Moreover, Rabin's move to approve the inauguration of a new settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan while the U.S. secretary continues his difficult talks with Israeli officials, affirms, once again, the Israeli prime minister's attempts to slip away from the requirments of the peace process by obstructing it for good.

This is not a strange Israeli stand. Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made every possible effort to prevent the convention of the Madrid conference. He urged the former U.S. Administration to stop its peace efforts. Had it not been for Syria's positive stand, the Madrid conference would not have convened and the Washington talks would not have continued for this long. U.S. Secretary Warren Christopher made sure to recall the constructive Syrian role which, more than once, helped in moving the peace process forward. He also praised the results of his talks in Syria.

Although Secretary Christopher prefers silent diplomacy and is not inclined to make public statements, he expressed much satisfaction with his talks in Damascus and the other Arab capitals. He did not express similar feelings when he left Tel Aviv. During the helicopter tour over the occupied Syrian Golan they organized for the U.S. secretary, the Israeli officials tried to justify what they call for in terms of a compromise solution; that is, at least slicing off part of the Golan. However, Christopher preceded this attempt with a statement in which he announced that real security is guaranteed by real peace, recalling what former President George Bush said at the time that geography and expansion do not guarantee Israel's security and that peace alone is an ideal guarantee.

Undoubtedly, Christopher sensed that Arabs seek real peace and they are serious and sincere with their trends. However, peace cannot be achieved by a response from one side. There is no alternative to a response by the Israeli side and hence the removal of the obstacles facing the peace process. We are convinced that the first of these obstacles lies in the Israeli ruler's refusal so far to respond to Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, which are considered the basis for the desired just settlement. These resolutions stipulate the inadmissibility of gaining land by force and the Israeli occupation forces' withdrawal from the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon. When the rulers of Israel adhere, in word and deed, to these resolutions and pledge to implement them, their compliance with Resolution 799 becomes a foregone conclusion. They originally expelled Palestinians to slip away from the requirements of the aforementioned resolutions and to obstruct the peace process.

From this premise, we say that the success of the proposed talks in Washington depends on the extent of an effective U.S. role that complies with Security Council resolutions. Israel will not submit to these resolutions without strong international pressure, led by the United States. The entire world is seeking to submit Israel to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, withdrawing from the occupied territories, and recognizing Palestinian rights out of their belief that there is no peace in the Middle East without Israel's full response to these demands.

Effective U.S., European Role Needed

JN2702162993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Commenting on the U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the Washington bilateral talks in April, Yitzhaq Rabin said that 1993 may witness the end of 45 years of wars and bloodshed in the Middle East and that all Israelis should work for the success of the peace process. He also called for hard, decisive, and even historic decisions. Rabin did not explain the efforts that should be exerted for the success of the peace process and the type of hard decisions he was talking about. However, he implicitly admitted that Israel thus far has not offered anything to promote the march toward a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. On the absolute contrary, the current Rabin government and the former Shamir government deliberately took every possible measure to obstruct the peace process, abort the Washington talks, and divert these talks from their course and objectives.

No progress has been made in the last eight rounds of Washington talks. Despite Rabin's promises to move the peace efforts forward, he resorted to escalating acts of violence in the occupied Arab territories, exercising the "scorched earth" policy, and expelling hundreds of Palestinian citizens in frank defiance of the will to achieve peace, the international community's charters, and Security Council resolutions. This reckless policy had a serious impact on the peace process which is now threatened by collapse. This prompted the new U.S. Administration to send Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the Middle East to save the peace process and revive hopes on the possibility of achieving the desired settlement based on UN resolutions.

The U.S. secretary held lengthy talks in the Arab capitals. He was very satisfied with these talks. The Arabs responded to his efforts and emphasized their concern about the peace process. However, the outcome of his talks with Israeli officials was not the same. He spent long hours, in one attempt after another, to convince them to remove the obstacles they deliberately placed before the peace prrocess. Rabin's government insisted on its stand of rejecting proposals which call for ending the policy of deportation, implementing Resolution 799, and making arrangements to return the deportees. Clearly, this Israeli stand does not call for optimism. It is well-known that compliance with Security Council resolutions is a basic requirement to achieve tangible progress. The past Washington rounds were blocked by Israel's refusal to submit to these resolutions. The upcoming Washington talks may be blocked by the same obstacle in the absence of an essential change in the Israeli policy, either in terms of stopping the policy of expulsion and displacement and ending the suffering of the Palestinians and their brothers in southern Lebanon or in terms of pledging to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and returning these territories to their legitimate owners.

We do not believe that there are decisive and historical decisions, as Rabin put it, other than the decisions to withdraw from the occupied territories and recognize Palestinian rights. Such decisions alone can open the doors wide before a real, just, consecrated, and lasting peace in the Middle East and end 45 years of wars and destruction.

Undoubtedly, intervention by the international community, through its influential countries, particularly the United States and the European Community, to practically implement Security Council resolutions without

procrastination and prevarication is something vital to activate the peace process—a process which, during the past rounds, suffered from an absence of an effective role contrary to the U.S.-Russian commitment.

If moving the peace process forward depends on Rabin's desire alone, then this process will be blocked by more crises and obstacles and could enter a dark tunnel for a long time. From this premise, we say that the U.S.-Russian invitation to resume the Washington talks is insufficient unless it is coupled with tangible measures and arrangements as well as specific proposals to translate Security Council resolutions into a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of national Palestinian rights in exchange for peace. Otherwise, the upcoming Washington talks will drown, as they did in the past, in procedural issues and statements of intentions and, once again, clash with Israel's games and mines, and lose its momentum and thrust.

The effective U.S. role promised by Clinton's administration and the required European role should focus on implementing Security Council resolutions, entrenching the authority of international law, drawing up a timetable for Israeli withdrawal, and transferring authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Palestinians.

Resumption of Peace Talks in April Needed

JN2802093493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH editorializes on U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statement that the Middle East peace talks will be resumed in April, noting that this statement came in the aftermath of his Middle East tour and his talks with the NATO and Russian foreign ministers. The paper says that Christopher and Kozyrev have affirmed that their two countries will take practical steps to advance the Middle East peace process. The paper wonders, however, whether the U.S. secretary of state has surmounted the difficulties he noted at the conclusion of his visit to occupied Palestine. According to Christopher, these difficulties must be removed in order to reactivate the peace process, which has been stopped since December? In other words, has the United States ensured a solution to the Israeli knot, which is a basic and indispensable condition, not only for resuming the peace talks, but also for rendering them a success? AL-BA'TH adds that it is unreasonable to resume the peace talks while Israeli policy continues to be based on the maneuvering and procrastination which were evident during the previous rounds of talks, and which prevented the talks from achieving anything that could promote a just and comprehensive peace.

Concluding its editorial, the paper urges the United States, given that it is a full partner in the talks, to take practical stands conducive to the implementation of UN resolutions. The Arabs do not want anything other than an Israeli commitment to comply with these resolutions. Once such a commitment is obtained, the region can then enjoy security and peace, the paper maintains.

The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the same issue, saying: Immediately after Washington and Moscow announced that they will send invitations for the resumption of the peace talks in Washington in April, Israeli officials resorted to their well-known games. TISHRIN notes the statement made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday that there could be a partial withdrawal from the Golan by the middle of the year. The paper says it is clear that Peres is either misrepresenting facts, or deliberately seeking to promote such fallacies at a time when the Arabs have proved throughout the past year that they are willing to establish true peace in the Middle East based on the relevant Security Council resolution and the principle of exchanging land for peace.

TISHRIN notes that to achieve this objective, Syria submitted constructive and specific proposals, outlining the means to achieve peace. These proposals were welcomed by all international quarters, including U.S. quarters. However, the paper adds, the Rabin government has chosen to waste the seventh and eighth round of talks by raising issues that have nothing to do with the essence of the peace process.

TISHRIN affirms that Syria has rejected separate and partial solutions, and works to achieve a comprehensive solution on all fronts of the conflict. Syria cannot understand the Israeli officials's repeated and ceaseless talk of partial withdrawals and phased solutions except as an attempt to place obstacles and difficulties in the way of the desired and true peace. This also shows their evasion of the requirements of UN resolutions, which provide for a complete Israeli withdrawal, rather than partial withdrawals.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: The Washington talks can no longer tolerate any further misrepresentation of facts, procrastination, or prevarication. Syria has repeatedly pointed out that there can be no peace in the region unless there is a complete withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab territories, and also that it will not concede a single inch of national or pan-Arab territory. Syria has also made it clear that compromise solutions are unacceptable, and that the only acceptable solution is the comprehensive solution that would ensure the restoration of all occupied territories and guarantee the realization of the Palestinian Arab people's rights.

In its commentary today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's optimism over the resumption of the peace talks is derived from the Arab concern to deal seriously and sincerely with the U.S. efforts to reactivate the peace process that he felt during his recent tour, and from the total Arab commitment to pursue the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is impossible to advance the peace process when only one side shows a desire to do so. The other side, Israel, must also show responsiveness. Israel, however, continues to barricade itself behind a long series of rejectionist stands and impossible conditions. A comparison between the Arab and Israeli positions will show a wide gap and great disparity between the two positions. It will also show an awful incompatibility between a party seeking justice and peace based on international law to restore its territory and rights, and another party, which holds the values of right and justice in total disregard, defies the resolutions of international legitimacy, and openly adheres to a policy of aggression and expansionism.

Partial Solutions Dismissed

JN0103100393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Commenting on Israel's attempts to derail the peace process by nurturing the illusion of an imminent breakthrough with certain Arab parties, AL-BA'TH writes: With each fresh step taken to advance the peace process, Israel seeks to prejudge events and impede international efforts, no matter what their origin. Not that this is the first time that Israel has tried such tactics; ever since the peace process began in Madrid, Israel has sought to scuttle it from within.

By singling out one Arab party for its attention and then creating the illusion of an imminent breakthrough with this or that party, Israel is not doing something that it has not tried before. AL-BA'TH adds: Wittingly or unwittingly, Israel ignores the fact that by thus focusing on Syria, it will mislead and impress no one. Syria's position on the peace process is, has been all along, and will remain absolutely clear. Syria, continues AL-BA'TH, is not shopping around for a separate peace; it is not interested in the retrieval of just a chunk of its occupied territory either, and will never have anything to do with partial solutions. Syria accepted the peace initiative, and has determinedly and religiously championed the Arabs' foremost cause [the Palestinian question] with the intent of retrieving Arab rights in full.

Syria's pan-Arab position that will never stand for yielding a single inch of territory will surely survive such deceptive tactics that Israel reckons will split Arab ranks. The Arab partners in the peace process are all too aware of Syria's clear position as are the cosponsors of the peace conference. In the meantime, Israel can say whatever it wants about partial solutions, since this will not change facts, and Israel's attempts to suppress them can hardly bring it any dividends, AL-BA'TH concludes.

Discussing the barriers erected by Israel in the path of the peace process, TISHRIN writes: Evidently, these barriers are evidence that the Rabin Government, no less than Shamir's, couldn't care less about an equitable and comprehensive peace settlement, or regional stability or security, for that matter. As for the will of the international community, just like his predecessor, Rabin couldn't care less. Throughout eight rounds of talks since the Madrid conference kicked off more than a year ago, Israel has been erecting barriers and planting mines on the road to a settlement.

TISHRIN adds: Israel, thus, simply does not want peace; all it wants is to retain the occupied Arab territories, and even grab further Arab territory, and interpret UN Security Council resolutions in a way that would further its aggressive, expansionist game plans, and deny the Palestinian people's rights. The Palestinian expellees' affair shows Israel to be not in the least interested in facilitating or furthering the peace process.

The expulsion measure and Israel's refusal to be bound by the subsequent UN Security Council Resolution 799 amount to a new impediment—of Israel's own making—to block the peace process. The issue is a virtual trap set by the Rabin government with a view to jeopardizing the peace process and pushing it to the verge of collapse. As long as the expulsion order stands and Israel refuses to honor Resolution 799, how can one expect it to implement other resolutions calling for its complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories? The question assumes added urgency given that the Rabin government is aware that continued occupation and rising regional tension on the one hand and peace on the other are mutually exclusive. Israel, the paper concludes, is equally aware that for peace to come to the region, it has to fulfill the requirement of its pullout of the occupied territories.

Afghanistan

Missiles Hit Kabul; Citizens Killed, Injured

LD2802151493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] After a few relatively calm days, last night and again today Golboddin's rebellious group launched missiles on Kabul city and injured and martyred a large number of innocent people.

An authoritative security source reported to a BIA military section correspondent that the missiles were lauched from south of the city. About 40 SAKR-type missiles and mortars hit the first, second and 10th wards of the city, resulting in 62 Kabul citizens being martyred and 70 others injured. One missile hit and damaged Pol-e Keshti mosque.

The source adds that based on the statements issued by the Islamic State on the observation of the cease-fire marking the sacred month of Ramadan, the forces of the Islamic Army firmly observe the cease-fire. The other side, by trampling on all the accepted humanitarian and Islamic laws during this holy month, martyrs our innocent people by launching their missiles on the city and causing sorrow among Muslims.

Hekmatyar Accused of Breaking Cease-Fire

LD2702112093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The cease-fire between warring groups in Kabul was broken last night. The Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul has reported that hostile sides attacked each others' positions with guns and mortar fire. The spokesman of Afghanistan's Defense Ministry accused Hekmatyar's Islamic Party [Hezb-e Eslami] of breaking the cease-fire. According to him the Islamic Party forces targeted the positions of the government's forces in the Chehel- Sutun region but were forced to retreat soon afterward. According to this report, the Government has announced that in spite of last night's clashes, government forces will fully observe the cease-fire regulations. Talks among the peace missions for resolving the overall differences are continuing in Kabul.

Army Repulses Attack

LD2702163293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] The forces of the Army of the Islamic State of Afghanistan pushed back an attack by Golboddin's the aggressive forces of Golboddin [Hekmatyar] last night, and inflicted casualties and damage on the enemy.

An authoritative source in the Defense Ministry told a correspondent of BAKHTAR's military section that after assembling and taking up positions in the southern areas last night Golboddin's forces attacked positions of the forces of the Army of the Islamic State. The Islamic Army resisted the attack and forced the enemy to retreat.

In the course of this failed attack seven members of the rebellious forces were killed and several were injured. A BM-12 system and a large quantity of heavy weapons ammunition belonging to the enemy were destroyed.

The source added that the forces of the Islamic Army respect the recent statement issued by the Islamic State on observing the cease- fire and halting the mopping-up operations to mark the sacred month of Ramadan and only respond when attacked by the other side. In contrast, Golboddin's forces, despite false statements issued on the observation of the cease-fire during the month of Ramadan, continued their attacks against army positions and fired missiles at the residential areas of the city. For example, last night Golboddin's rebellious forces fired six SAKR type missiles at residential areas, injuring four of our compatriots in the 11th ward of the city. The missiles also caused material damage.

Official Assails Shiite Leader's Actions

LD2802183393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, head of political affairs at the Ministry of Defense, spoke to journalists at a news conference this afternoon on the Islamic State of Afghanistan's position toward the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and the faction of that party led by 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari.

Esteemed Qanuni said: The Islamic State of Afghanistan is consistently trying to talk to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami and resolve disputes through understanding. However, Mazari and his faction has been, and is, hampering this process.

Furthermore, Mazari, in collusion with the rebellious faction of Golboddin [Hekmatyar], waged war against the Islamic State and thus disrupted the calm life of our people. As a result of the increasing crimes by Mazari and complaints by the people, the Islamic State was obliged to launch limited mopping-up operations against it.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan fully respects the rights and life of the noble Hazara nationality. The position taken by the Islamic State against Mazari's faction does not mean a position against the Hazara nationality. Indeed, as all can see, a large number of our Hazara brothers in Hezb-e Wahdat are against Mazari and his faction and have cooperated with the forces of the Islamic State in operations against Mazari.

Esteemed Qanuni added: Mazari's faction has committed innumerable crimes in areas under his control, among which the unreasonable [as heard] massacre of the people, the imprisonment of people in dungeons, the violation of the people's honor, and the selling of children may be cited. Incriminating documents are indicative of these crimes perpetrated by Mazari's faction.

Esteemed Qanuni declared: The Islamic State of Afghanistan emphasizes that the Islamic State is not against the Hazara nationality or the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami; it is solely against Mazari's faction. We consider our Hazara brothers a part of the people of Afghanistan. They can, with full confidence, go to any part of Kabul city and engage in their work and trade. If they are faced with problems of any sort they should inform the Kabul garrison. The Ministry of Defense is ready to deal with their complaints with the necessary consideration.

In conclusion, esteemed Qanuni answered questions on the matter put to him by domestic and foreign journalists.

Iranian Aid Delivered to Authorities, Shiites

LD2702114293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb

[Text] A report from our colleague in Kabul indicates: Over 70 tonnes of food, medicine, and other emergency supplies arrived in Kabul with five aircraft of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Part of the supplies were handed over to the Red Crescent and the Health and Defense Ministries of Afghanistan. The rest will gradually be distributed by the representatives of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul and our country's Red Crescent to the migrants and refugees of the [Shiite] district of Afshar. Moreover, the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran has distributed tea, sugar, cooking oil, powdered milk, washing powder, tents and shoes to 300 households of Afshari migrants in southwestern Kabul.

India

National Budget for 1993-94 Outlined

BK2702142493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1312 GMT 27 Feb 93

["Special News Bulletin on the Union Budget for 1993-94"]

[Text] The union budget proposals for 1993-94 have been presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The highlights are: massive reduction in customs, excise, and import duties, particularly on items of mass consumption; income tax exemption ceiling remains the same; standard deduction raised to 15,000 rupees for the salaried class; 12 percent surcharge on personal income above 1 lakh rupees is to stay for one more year. Five-year tax holiday proposed for profits and gains of new power generation and distribution units. Coffee and tea are fully exempted from excise, and duty on vanaspati [vegetable oil] reduced. Color TV sets, refrigerators, and air conditioners to cost less. Import duty on machinery for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, poultry keeping, and certain pesticides reduced. Excise on polyester and nylon yarns lowered and import duty on specified bulk drugs drastically reduced.

Defense outlay increased to 19,180 crore rupees, a rise by 1,680 crores from that of the current year.

The bank rate is lowered by 1 percent and the maximum interest on deposits reduced from 12 to 11 percent. Outlay on education is raised by over 37 percent to enlarge primary education and adult literacy.

Dual exchange rate regime eliminated. Exporters and other foreign exchange earners permitted to convert cent per cent [100 percent] earnings at market rates. Special tribunals to be set up to expedite legal action by banks to enforce recoveries.

The net budget deficit is estimated at 4,314 crore rupees, which is less than last year. And now the details:

Presenting the budget proposals in the Lok Sabha in a specially convened session a short while ago, the Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has proposed substantial reduction in customs, excise and import duties, particularly for items of mass consumption. Relief has been given to a large number of consumer items to protect the common people from inflation. In addition to full exemption for coffee and tea and reduction of excise on vanaspati by 400 rupees per metric ton, reduction has been granted on air coolers, electric fans, domestic electric appliances, dry cell batteries, printing and writing ink, radio sets, tooth powder, biscuits, noodles and roasted cereals, plastic molded luggage, and mattresses and bedding items using rubber.

Excise duty has also been reduced on a large number of capital goods and instruments at a uniform reduction of 10 percent. For the power sector, a 5 percent rate has been proposed.

To help the automobile, television, refrigeration and airconditioning industries to fight recession, significant relief has been proposed by reducing excise duties. Commercial vehicles not using petrol are to pay 8 percent less excise. The duty on chassis of these vehicles has also been decreased to 15 percent, whereas the duty on building the chassis of buses and similar passenger vehicles has been fully exempted. The excise on three-wheelers and motorcars has also been reduced by 8 and 15 percent respectively. Color TV sets will be charged 675 to 2,585 rupees less excise duty. The duty on refrigerators and air conditioners will also come down from 175 to 2,250 rupees and from 6,800 to 15,100 rupees respectively per piece. Excise duty on bulk plastic resins has also been reduced by 11 percent.

Dr. Manmohan Singh has also proposed to rationalize the existing duty structure on metals. The ad valorem rates on ferrous metals will have two slabs at 12.5 and 15 percent. The present duty rates on aluminum are to be replaced by one uniform rate of 25 percent. Instead of varying rates for nonferrous metals like copper, zinc, and lead, Dr. Singh has proposed a uniform duty of 15

percent. The excise duty on plywood used in papermaking is lowered by 14.5 percent so that nonconventional raw metals are increasingly used for manufacture of paper.

The finance minister has proposed to enhance the limits for exemption on registration of small-scale units from 7.5 lakh to 10 lakh rupees. He said those small-scale units producing goods worth 20 lakh rupees are at present attracting some excise duty.

Dr. Singh said that by accepting certain recommendations of the Estimates Committee and Public Accounts Committee, it has been decided to raise the duty exemption limit of all units producing goods worth up to 30 lakh rupees. He further said that small units are to receive Modvat [modified value-added tax] credit only on the basis of duty actually paid. Dr. Singh also announced that these and other proposed changes in the small-scale sector will take effect from the 1st of April.

Agriculture, textile, and health sectors have received both customs and excise duty concessions. Import duty on items of machinery used for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and poultry- keeping has been reduced by 30 percent. Import duty on some specified items of exports in textiles, leather, marine products, gems, and jewelry industries have been reduced to 25 percent.

Various types of machine tools in the capital goods sector are now proposed to be brought under three duty rate slots of 40, 60, and 80 percent. A uniform rate of 40 percent will be levied on hand-operated tools used by artisans and skilled workers.

The import duty on specified bulk drugs has been drastically reduced to 25 percent. A uniform rate of 50 percent duty is proposed on specified drug intermediates. In respect of homeopathic medicines, the duty is further reduced to 15 percent. Full exemption has been given to specified nonelectronic life-saving medical equipment to accelerate indigenous production of medical equipment.

Unfolding his proposals relating to indirect taxes, the finance minister said import duty on projects and general machinery has been reduced to 35 percent from the present 55 percent. Projects in certain priority sectors like coal mining and petroleum refinery will now have to pay only 25 percent duty.

Giving the present economic scenario, the finance minister said the sense of crisis is now behind us and a measure of normalcy in the country's external payments has been restored. The annual rate of inflation has come down from as much as 17 percent in August 1991 to below 7 percent now. The growth of the economy, which declined to 1.12 percent in 1991-92, is expected to be around 4 percent in the current financial year. The fiscal deficit has also come down from 8.4 percent of the GDP in 1990-91 to about 5 percent in the current year. Production is beginning to recover and the fears of being swamped by imports following liberalization have proved to be exaggerated.

The finance minister announced an increased allocation on defense, which is to go up from 17,500 crore rupees in the current year to 19,180 crore rupees in the current year. [sentence as heard]

The government will keep its commitment on farm loan waiver scheme on which the expenditure will be 500 crore rupees. Food subsidies will account for 3,000 crore rupees and the government will keep the burden of food subsidy at a reasonable level. Dr. Singh said no separate provision has been made for additional dearness allowance which may become payable next year.

Admitting that the securities scam has revealed weaknesses in the supervisory system of banks, Dr. Singh said as per the recommendations of the Narasimhan Committee, the Reserve Bank has decided to strengthen bank supervision by setting up a separate board for financial supervision within it. He said the government aims to reduce the Statutory Liquidy Ratio—SLR—further from an effective average level of about 36 percent at present to about 25 percent over the next three years. He justified the proposal for reducing the interest rates of banks by saying that the rate of inflation has also come down. Lowering of interest rates, he said, will help the economic recovery in the coming year.

Among the steps taken this year to reform the capital market, Dr. Singh outlined the notification of rules and regulations to deal with insider trading, operation of mutual funds, registration of brokers, etc. The scheme for allowing foreign institutional investors in the capital market has also been implemented and several private sector mutual funds have been cleared by SEBI [Securities and Exchange Board of India]. He expressed the government's determination to bring further reforms of the capital market in the coming year so that it can mobilize large funds for investment. The SEBI Act is also to be amended to give it additional powers so that it becomes more effective.

Dr. Singh added that the State Bank of India as well as other nationalized banks, which are in a position to bear the additional capital needs for rural development, will be allowed access in the capital market to raise fresh equity to meet their shortfall over the next three years. This will help the banks to expand lending, but the government will continue to retain majority ownership and therefore effective control of the public sector banks. As the legal process for realizing bank dues is tortuous and time- consuming, through courts special tribunals will be set up to expedite legal action by the banks and legislation to this effect will be brought next year.

Outlining the priorities of the economic policy, Dr. Singh said the fiscal corrections should be continued so that the inflationary trends are curbed and the deficits of the central, state governments are further reduced. Fiscal manoeuvre gained by restraining expenditure has to be

used to boost development expenditure in the coming year, particularly for alleviating poverty and development of the villages and of vital social services like education and health.

Convertible Rupee, Defense Hike

BK2702125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Full convertibility of the rupee, lower interest rates, further incentives to exports, hike in development and social service expenditure, reforms in banking and capital markets, higher outlay for agriculture, power and petroleum, and natural gas are some of the highlights of the Union Budget for 1993-94 now being presented by the finance minister in the Lok Sabha.

In his budget speech, which is still on, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that all exporters and foreign exchange earners, including workers abroad, will be allowed to convert 100 percent of their earnings at the market rate. All imports will have to be paid for at the market rate. He said this is necessary as the present dual rate hurts exporters and other foreign exchange earners who have to surrender 40 percent of their earnings at the official rate.

The finance minister justified reduction in interest rates because of fall of inflation and said that the Reserve Bank is separately notifying a reduction in the maximum interest rate on bank deposits from 12 to 11 percent. The minimum lending rate of 18 percent on commercial advances will be lowered to 17 percent.

The finance minister announced a 62 percent increase in the outlay on rural development and a big hike in development and social services expenditure. He said the outlay for the Department of Rural Development for next year has been increased by a massive 62 percent to 5,010 crore rupees. Both employment generation and capital formation in rural areas will receive a major boost. A big hike in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna [Employment Scheme] outlay is expected to create an additional 1,100 million man-days of employment. He said the central plan outlay will be 32 percent higher than last year. He also announced a new scheme for improvement of primary education in educationally backward districts and in districts where the total literacy campaign has been successful. He said the outlay on education has been stepped up by 37 percent and on health by a massive 60 percent during the coming year.

The expenditure on defense has gone up to over 19,000 crore rupees, an increase of about 1,600 crore rupees.

Dr. Manmohan Singh announced that special attention will be paid to revitalize the agricultural credit system to make it a more effective instrument for increasing capital formation and productivity. He said the flow of rural credit from institutional sources is to jump by 20 percent and NABARD [National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development] investment refinance support to banks will go up by 22 percent.

The budget provides for a 340-crore-rupee one-time assistance to farmers for purchase of fertilizers. An additional 1,500 crore has been provided for food, fertilizer, and export subsidies. The finance minister announced that the allocation for agriculture and animal husbandry has been increased by 36 percent. He announced higher outlay for various schemes, including integrated child development and welfare. A provision of 247 crore rupees has been made for special assistance for scheduled caste component plan. He said the government has decided to set up a university in Nagaland and Indian Institute of Technology in Assam.

To fully protect the vulnerable sections, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the food subsidy will be increased to 3,000 crore rupees—an increase of 200 crores. The budget shows a deficit of 333 crore rupees [deficit figure as heard]. The finance minister announced a five-year tax holiday to stimulate investment in the northeastern region and certain industrially backward areas including Jammu and Kashmir and Sikkim. He also announced a similar benefit for new industrial undertakings in the power generation sector.

There is to be no change in the income tax exemption limit. However, the finance minister has raised the standard deduction limit from 12,000 rupees to 15,000 rupees. For working women, this limit will be 18,000 rupees.

Political Leaders' Reaction

BK2702161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Reactions to the budget proposals have come in from various political leaders. Reacting to the budget, the Prime Minister [Narasimha Rao] said:

[Begin Rao recording] The budget is a balanced one. It aims at overall growth of the economy, at the same time giving substantial benefits and concessions to those who deserve [them], particularly the smaller entrepreneurs and so on, and it lays great emphasis on rural development and antipoverty programs. [end recording]

The finance minister says the budget will give a boost to rural development and increase the competitiveness of the domestic industry. Speaking to newspersons after the presentation of the budget, Dr. Manmohan Singh said the steps envisaged will curtail inflation and the balance of payments position will improve further.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the relief provided in the budget is illusive as far as the farmers and the common man are concerned.

The former finance minister and Janata Dal-B leader, Mr. Madhu Dandavate, said the heavy foreign borrowing by the government shows that the country has fallen into a debt trap. Mr. Bogendra Jha of the CPI

[Communist Party of India] expressed the view that the proposals will only encourage foreign companies' business in the country.

The Janata Dal-A leader, Mr. Ajit Singh, welcomed the reduction in duty on tractors and other agricultural equipment. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, says nothing has been provided for the poor and the middle class except for some (?cosmetic) concessions. He, however, welcomed the five-year tax holiday for the power sector. According to the SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Mr. S.P. Malaviya, the unemployed have been ignored and there is no plan to encourage small farmers. The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, said the tax relief will only benefit the rich. The Congress-S leader, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, opined that the budget will lead to more investments, jobs, growth, and production. The Bahujan Samaj Party leader, Mr. Kansi Ram, termed the budget as a routine one. The Telugu Desam Party leader, Mr. B. Ramaiah, said more emphasis on employment generation, rural development, and population control could have been laid.

The British trade and industry and non-resident Indians in the UK have welcomed full convertibility of the rupee. They said this will make India an extremely attractive place for foreign investors.

'Mixed Reactions' Cited

BK2802125993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Several political parties have expressed mixed reactions to the general budget for 1993-94. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has described it as an intelligent, innovative, and imaginative budget which will give fillip to agriculture and industry.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] general secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, said the public distribution system will be the worst casualty because allocation will not be sufficient to meet the requirement. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said that the budget is import-oriented and this would adversely affect the domestic industry. Describing it as the rich man's budget, the National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, said that nothing has been mentioned to provide more employment opportunities. In his reaction, former Prime Minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the concessions will only boost imports and exports of raw materials will affect indigenous industry.

Reacting to the budget proposals, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, said the conditionalities of the IMF loans are conspicuous in this budget. Chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have hailed the budget, describing it as vibrant and growth-oriented. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, has described it as a major step forward. The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, has welcomed the thrust on agriculture and rural development. Welcoming the budget, the Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, said the budget will help economic growth and financial stability in the country. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has described the budget as development oriented and said that the finance minister has taken special care for poverty alleviation and employment generation.

The union minister of state for industry, Mr. M. Arunachalam, said the raising of exemption limit for registration of small-scale units from 7.5 lakh to 10 lakh rupees and the increase in duty exemption up to 30 lakh rupees for these units will go a long way in maximizing production and contributing to overall economic growth.

Several business organizations have welcomed the budget, saying that it will boost exports and further consolidate the country's economic reforms. The president of the Confederation of Indian Industry, CII, Dr. J.J. Irani, has hailed the budget as a watershed in the development of the country. He said the budget will accelerate industrial growth and pull the economy out of the current recession. The president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, ASSOCHAM, Dr. N.M. Duldhoya, described the budget as market- and export-oriented and investment friendly. In his budget reaction, the chief of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kanti Kumar Poddar, said the finance minister has laid right emphasis on demand stimulation by providing the higher planned expenditure and rationalization-cum-reduction of customs and central excise duties. Mr. Kishore Saha, the president of the Federation of Indian Export Organizations, welcomed the announcement of unified exchange rate, saying it will give tremendous boost to exports. The president of the PHD [Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi] Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PHDCCI, Mr. Devindra Singh, complimented the finance minister for a bold, pragmatic, investment, and export-oriented budget.

The Reserve Bank Governor Dr. C. Rangarajan said the unified exchange rate system announced in the budget will produce desirable effects on exports, inward remittances, and imports. These will help stabilize the exchange value of the rupee.

Finance Minister Discusses Economic Direction

BK2802034893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The finance minister has ruled out the possibility of any hike in petroleum prices following the full convertibility of the rupee on trade account. Dr. Manmohan Singh said though the import bill has to be met at the open market rate of foreign exchange there are enough surplus funds under the (?old) account with the government. The international prices are also pretty low at the moment. As such, he does not anticipate any need to increase the petroleum prices.

Dr. Singh was replying to questions from an invited audience in a program telecast last evening. The finance

minister was of the view that the full convertibility of rupee will benefit exporters in all sectors. Asked whether the industry will pass on the duty relief given in the budget, Dr. Singh said they have no other option. The finance minister was confident that the reliefs proposed in the budget will stimulate production and exports. He rejected the criticism on the recent hike in the administered prices of certain items, saying the public sector cannot go on absorbing the mounting costs of operation. He said the increase in the standard deduction for income tax will benefit nearly eight to ten lakh employees at lower slabs. Asked why the power sector has been singled out for a tax holiday, the finance minister said the government considers it as the most critical area for all round development of the country's economy.

China Told Missiles for Pakistan Pose Threat

BK0103102893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] India has told the Chinese Government that supply of sophisticated arms and missiles to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements for defense poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to peace and stability in South Asia. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, informed the Lok Sabha today that the government has also stressed the need for avoiding actions which may negate mutual confidence and understanding between India and China. He said India has noted the statement of the Chinese Foreign Ministry which described as baseless the newspaper reports on China's export of missiles to Pakistan.

BJP Plans Rallies To Force Elections

BK2702164892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Feb 27 (AFP)—India's main opposition party announced Saturday it would stage nationwide mass rallies in an escalating campaign for early polls and the construction of a Hindu temple on the ruins of the Babri Mosque.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) said it would organise more than 1,000 rallies in cities and towns over a fortnight starting March 15. A planned show of party strength was thwarted here Thursday by police.

Senior party leader Sunder Singh Bhandari announced the plans to a press conference after 140 BJP MPs met President Shankar Dayal Sharma to demand the ouster of the Congress (I) Party government of Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"It is clear that this government has forfeited the right to remain in power," said a memorandum they handed to Sharma. "It should seek a fresh mandate from the people of India."

The Hindu revivalist party also protested the sweeping arrests of its activists and the police beatings of its leaders here Thursday, calling the crackdown an attack on democracy.

Several BJP MPs including Party President Murli Manohar Joshi were injured in the police action aimed at enforcing a ban on the BJP's New Delhi rally.

The government has banned all political assemblies in the capital for three months, citing fears of violence.

Bhandari said next month's BJP rallies would highlight the party's demands for early polls and the construction of a temple on the site of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya razed by Hindu zealots on December 6.

He said the party had collected 50 million signatures supporting the temple campaign, adding it planned to double that figure before handing the petition to the president at the end of March.

The national executive appointed an 11-member committee Saturday to map out the party's plan of action against the government. [passage omitted]

Top Punjab Militant Manochahal Killed 28 Feb

BK2802145293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] In Punjab, the dreaded terrorist and chief of a militant organization, Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, was shot dead at village Ratol in Amritsar district this afternoon. The state director general of police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told our Chandigarh correspondent that Manochahal was responsible for over 1,000 killings and was carrying a reward of over 30 lakh rupees. Mr. Gill said Manochahal gave a slip to the police yesterday when the security forces were carrying out search operations in a village. Today he was killed in an encounter near the same village. Mr. Gill also said that four more dreaded terrorists are still at large. They are Daljit Singh Bittu, Paramjit Singh Panwar, Nihal Singh, and Zafarwal. The police chief appealed to them to surrender. Mr. Gill said that with the killing of Manochahal, the backbone of militants in the state has completely been broken.

President's Rule in Kashmir Extended 6 Months

BK0103125493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for six more months after the third of this month. The Rajya Sabha approved the statutory resolution on the subject today moved by the minister of state for home, Minister Mr. P.N. Sayeed. The Lok Sabha passed a similar resolution on Thursday [25 February].

Replying to the discussion, the home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, appealed to all political parties to help the government in creating a conducive atmosphere in the

state in which free and fair elections are held. Mr. Chavan said the government is not averse to having a dialogue with militants provided they abjure violence and agree to abide by the Constitution.

Clinton's 'Landmark Budget' Hailed

BK0103021693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 20 Feb 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Mr. Clinton Asserts"]

[Text] President Bill Clinton has presented America a landmark budget, asserting the public concerns of fiscal policy which Reaganomics had put on the back burner for 12 years. For the first time, a convincing signal has been sent to the world of America's capacity to bridle the runaway fiscal deficit. He has mustered tremendous political will in announcing cuts in government spending, paring defence expenditure, and even freezing for one year remuneration to the federal bureaucracy. With the proposed 150 specific spending cuts, adding up to $253 billion in four years, Mr. Clinton has taken on a wide array of interest groups which wield awesome political clout. The President has bypassed them and appealed directly to the people on whom he has imposed additional taxes to garner revenues of $246 billion in support of his four-year target of bringing down the fiscal deficit. On the face of it, getting the people to sway the US Congress appears to be an impossible task. However, Mr. Clinton's patent sincerity in making the budget an instrument for advancing the public interest should see him ride out the backlash of critics used to the soft budget.

The US President has put politics to the fore. Expenditure pruning alone is neither sufficient nor feasible beyond a point for bringing down the fiscal deficit; tax revenues must make a significant contribution to reducing the fiscal gap. He proposes to collect 70 percent of the additional tax revenue from America's affluent class, accounting for less than five percent of total households. New taxes radiate down to the middle classes, who will contribute the remaining 30 percent of the additional revenue, but the imposts are perceptibly geared to two principal social objectives: an increase in public investment and a reduction in excessive oil consumption. Not surprisingly, spot opinion polls conducted after the tax announcements, show that lay people are supportive of Mr. Clinton.

The Clinton budget casts away the shibboleths dear to American capitalism, and expands public investment in education, housing, environment and infrastructure, directs public expenditure to the poor, and raises corporate income taxes. These represent a radical shift in public policy, designed to create half a million jobs with public and private investment. The proposed investment allowance will prod the latter. Skeptics who fear that the Clinton budget will slow down the recovery of the American economy miss its investment orientation, and the new pattern of investment it seeks to establish. The US President has declined to be cowed by the demands of American populism, and decided to lead his nation. Regrettably, the political leadership of our country cannot match Mr. Clinton's admirable decisiveness.

Iran

BBC, Israeli Reaction to President's Message Viewed

LD2602110393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0400 GMT 26 Feb 93

[From the weekly "Review of Foreign Radio Broadcasts" program]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a message to the European Economic Community leaders [EC] explained Iran's views on international and regional issues. [passage omitted]. The British state-owned radio [BBC] also broadcast some parts of the president's letter. Please listen:

[Begin recording] [BBC Persian Service announcer] Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a message to British Prime Minister John Major, accused the Western countries of pursuing a policy of double standards in connection with the international and regional issues. He also described the policy of the Iranian government in the face of these issues. Stressing Iran's sincerity in its relations with foreign countries, Hashemi-Rafsanjani strongly criticized the international forums in connection with such developments as the fate of the Bosnian Muslims and duplicity toward Israel. We draw your attention to a report presented by our colleague Solmaz Dabiri.

[Dabiri] Most of the points raised by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his letter were about the critical resolutions issued by the EC leaders during their December session in Scotland. The Iranian president's seven-page letter, which was in fact a reply to these criticisms, coincided with the recent protest lodged by the British Government against Iran regarding the Salman Rushdie issue. The message was submitted by Iran's charge d' affaires to Britain's Deputy Foreign Secretary Mr. Douglas Hogg. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] The Zionist regime's radio, too, broadcast parts of the message, and remarked on various issues, which if correct, concern the relations between Iran and Britain. In any case, the objective behind this propaganda action si to confuse the listener and lessen the significance of the message. Please listen.

[Radio Israel announcer recording] Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in part of his letter, has stressed that Iran allocates less than two percent of its gross domestic product to military expenditure; and it is very serious in its search to expand mutual trust and stability in the Middle East region and speedy talks with the Arab

Emirates. We would like to point out that last week it was announced that a London customs office stopped the export of a large quantity of arms and spare parts to the Islamic government of Iran. The Tehran daily KEYHAN wrote tonight: A million dollars worth of Iranian spare parts are confiscated in London. KEYHAN linked this measure with the fatwa on killing Salman Rushdie. [end recording]

[Announcer] By compiling such a report, the Zionists have perhaps tried to create a link between the president's important message and this news. This is a trivial and pointless attempt anyway. The British Government was the first recipient of the president's message only because Britain was the last host of the EC leaders. Why should the crafty West, which views all matters in terms of its own interests, invest so much capital in the Salman Rushdie issue? It is natural that our public opinion should seek their true desires and objectives behind this puppet show. The same public opinion believes that the Salman Rushdie puppet is part of the West's propaganda ploy. There are several groups behind the scene running the puppet show, all of which pursue more or less the same objectives. The Zionists wish to warn the West that after the collapse of communism, Islam is the greatest danger facing them. There are also some Western states, which wish to exploit the issue for extortion. The combined arrogant-Zionist system wishes to eliminate revolutionary Islam to plunder the Islamic world's resources without hindrance. If the Muslims demonstrate vigilance in the face of these conspiracies, and if they precisely understand the reasons behind the West's and the Zionists' moves, the west will lose the Salman Rushdie weapon too.

Commentary on Christopher Tour Objectives

LD2702164593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The United States and Russia have announced that joint Arab-Israeli talks will resume next April, in almost two months time. The decision on the timing for the resumption of the peace talks between Palestinian, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian delegations and an Israeli delegation is one of the outcomes of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region. His visit began last week when the situation facing the expelled Palestinians and Israeli obstinance continued to hinder the resumption of the negotiations.

In fact, the main objective of Warren Christopher's mission to the region was to separate the issues of the resumption of talks and the expelled Palestinians. It seems that he has succeeded in doing just that, because Arab governments involved in the negotiations have not said that they will not attend the peace talks unless expelled Palestinians are returned. Only the Palestinian delegation and the PLO still connect the two issues.

During his meeting with the Palestinian delegation, which was held at the U.S. Consulate in al-Quds [Jerusalem], Christopher put forward four proposals: that Israel expel no more Palestinians; take back those recently expelled; allow a large number of those expelled in the past to return; and reconfirm that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of a peace agreement.

The PLO was supposed to issue a statement welcoming these proposals, but as soon as Christopher left the region the Russian ambassador to Tunisia met with Yasir 'Arafat and told him that America has taken back its proposals.

Now it is only the Palestinian side that says it will not take part in the negotiations unless the issue of the expelled Palestinians is solved. But Hanan 'Ashrawi, the spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation, has left a narrow passage open by saying that if Israel shows some initiative the Palestinian side will also take part in the negotiations.

Another of Christopher's objectives was to announce America's increased involvement in the so-called peace initiative. So far America has only played the role of a supervisor in the negotiations and has never been directly involved in its procedure. Now Bill Clinton's government says that it will play the role of a full partner in the peace process, and is showing that it is willing to cooperate extensively in the peace negotiations. It is said that Israel opposes this part of the U.S. plan of increased involvement, but Arab governments agree with it, and have been calling for it for a long time.

Israel is therefore opposing both the resolution of the problem of the expelled Palestinians and any increased U.S. involvement in the peace process. However, there is heavy U.S. pressure on the Arab delegations to go to Washington next April and accept negotiations with Israel.

Even though pessimists believe that the issue of the expelled Palestinians has become one of the points on the agenda of the negotiations, it should not be overlooked that if the issue is not solved it will affect the negotiations and stop their progress.

The only issue making many Arab governments share the same opinion as Israel and America in saying that the peace process should continue is the growth of pro-Islamic movements and the increasing number of those who oppose a regional compromise.

Message to ICO Seeks Help for Bosnian Muslims

LD2802222793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. Velayati, sending a message to the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) general-secretary, Mr. Hamid al-Gabid, has called for cooperation between the Islamic states to (?render humanitarian needs) to the Muslim people of

Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Iranian foreign minister in his message has referred to the strategic situation of Bosnia-Hercegovina and expressed concern over the critical living conditions of Muslims in different besieged cities of Bosnia.

In another part of the message, Dr. Velayati has referred to the ratifications of the last extraordinary session by the Islamic States' foreign ministers, concerning the crisis in Bosnia and said: The Islamic States should take a chance in a coordinated manner.

President Calls For Confidence Vote on Sa'idi-Kia

LD2802174293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Roads and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today and submitted a report on the investigations of the Air Accidents Committee. He also asked for the president's views on the explanations requested in connection with the Majles deputies' call for impeachment [estizah].

The president thanked Mr. Sa'idi-Kia for his valuable services. He noted the attitude and records of the majority of the Majles deputies and the difficulties that could arise for the roads and transport sector from a situation in which a minister stepped down under pre-election circumstances and in the midst of the preparation of the second five-year plan. He expressed the hope that a vote of confidence [ra'y-e e'temad] by the Majles deputies will help to avoid any difficulties for the country and the second five-year plan.

Support for Lebanese Hizballah Called For

NC2602193893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Hizballah Needs to be Backed, Not Left]

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri called this Tuesday [16 February] for strong support of the Shiite Muslims fighting Israeli forces in South Lebanon. Asking the Parliament to approve $34 million to aid southern residents, Al-Hariri called on all Lebanese to join Hizballah in resisting Israeli aggression with "all available means."

After a refusal to allow more than 400 Palestinian deportees into Lebanon last month, this is the second time the prime minister has demonstrated his commitment to the struggle against Zionist aggressions. Al-Hariri's acknowledgement of the sacrifices Shiites in the South have made in defending their country is a promising sign, and morale booster to the Party of God to continue its struggle to end the occupation.

Unfortunately, Hizballah has been left alone during much of this struggle; and the group has on numerous occasions been faced with the threat of extinction as a result of overwhelming pressure from major powers on the Lebanese government who have sought to deter Hizballah. The U.S. and some European countries have often tried, though unsuccessfully, to force Damascus and Beirut to contain the Shiites and pave the way for the supposed success of the Mid-east peace process, an undertaking which has thus far proved to be a mere phantom. The past six rounds of negotiations have achieved absolutely nothing for Arabs and the Zionist regime remains as uncompromising as before, and completely disinterested in a negotiated settlement of the conflict.

On the other hand, the daily struggle of the Palestinian Muslims in the occupied land, driven by the depth of their grievances and beliefs, has given way to unprecedented success in forcing Israel to come to terms with the reality of its occupation.

The determination of Hizballah, too, in Southern Lebanon and the Shiite's unshakable sense of commitment to the Palestinian aspirations, has added momentum to the struggle against the Zionists and promises imminent freedom and independence in both lands.

If there are any prospects Arabs and Muslims should invest their hopes in, then it is in the potential power of their own peoples, not the pseudo expressions of support and pretensions to neutrality from dubious mediators. The Democratic Administration in the U.S. is too closely allied with the Zionist state to desire a fair settlement of the conflict. Washington's recent forthright rejection of a very lucid international law in the interest of Israel is proof enough of its partiality, and one which comes from the heart and its compassion for its friends in Tel Aviv.

One must not underestimate the strength of Palestinians and Lebanese people. The Shiites in South Lebanon have proved, during their decade old struggle against a monstrous and determined army, that they are a force to reckon with, not to be easily abandoned. Hizballah has endured heavy losses including the assassination of its leader last year, but it has also won many battles and has never shown any weaknesses or a willingness to compromise on the territorial integrity of its country.

To win the war, however, the Shiites need the support of the Lebanese government and that of the rest of the Arab and Muslim world.

Grand Ayatollah Amoli Dies 26 Feb

LD2802081793 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Excerpts] Qom, Central Prov., Feb. 28, IRNA—The country's leading ulema and senior officials as well as a large crowd of mourners took part in the funeral procession held in this holy city for Grand Ayatollah Mirza Hashem Amoli Saturday afternoon.

Born in 1902 in Amol, Mazandaran Province, Ayatollah Amoli passed away on Friday [26 February] following a chronic ailment. [passage omitted]

The prominent jurisprudent is survived with six children among whom reference can be made to 'Ali Larijani who is serving in the capacity of minister of culture and islamic guidance and Mohammad Javad Larijani, a Majlis deputy from Tehran.

Daily Sees 'No Way Out' of Rushdie 'Quagmire'

NC2602194093 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "No Way Out"]

[Text] When the Western hostages were in captivity in Lebanon, the Islamic Republic became the subject of a propaganda campaign that accused it of being in collusion with the Lebanese hostage holders and was constantly asked to help get them free.

Iran seems to be the subject of another concerted Western campaign again. One that tries to bring about the reversal of the late Imam Khomeyni's death verdict against Salman Rushdie, and somehow links the future of bilateral relations between the Western world and Iran to Rushdie's destiny.

In Lebanon Iran had influence with the Islamic factions and it used that to secure the freedom of the hostages. But although in the case of the hostages in Lebanon the Islamic Republic had some leeways, in that of Rushdie there seems to be nothing that it can do to disentangle him. No one likes to be distracted by secondary or marginal issues when there are important jobs to do, but everybody's hands in the Islamic Republic seem to be tied down in relation to his case because of its nature and gravity.

Looking into the statements made by various officials of the Islamic Republic should make plenty clear to everyone that the policy adopted in relation to Rushdie is, first, firm, deeply thought and not subject to change. Second, as can be gathered from the comments made by the Leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, on the issue, the Islamic Republic is prepared to confront all the possible international backlashes to come as a consequence of this policy.

Rushdie's case, although it may look like a simple and straightforward issue from the point of view of a Westerner, is by no means so from that of an Islamic clergy. And although there are many provisions for forgiveness in Islamic faith, there are none that would apply to his case: blasphemy and apostasy. The punishments on when Islam and Islamic sanctities are insulted specially when the Prophet and his book, the Holy Koran, are concerned are direct, unequivocal and irrevocable.

What makes Rushdie's case specially critical and outside of the realm of reconsideration is that he did what he did intentionally, out of grudge (not ignorance) and with the idea of gaining more fame (or rather notoriety). And, in the final analysis, he was tempted to blaspheme the holiest of Islamic sanctities for personal gains.

As part of the continuing campaign to force Iran to change the Imam's edict, previously there was this attempt to dilute the issue by having the book translated into other languages and published in various countries. All those were done with the idea that the assessment of the verdict by the Islamic Republic would be one that not only did it not bring any improvement to the Islamic faith but it even triggered a series of negative consequences, so that the Islamic Republic would be compelled to reverse its decree. Having seen that the tactic would not work, Rushdie and his sympathizers have reverted to direct pressure.

The Islamic Republic respects other people's religions, specially those prevalent in the Western world: Christianity and Judaism and feels betrayed for not having been reciprocated the same treatment, specially when there are plots involved. Yes, the Islamic Republic is of the opinion that what Rushdie did was part of a bigger plot... a plot to scandalize Islam and make it look like a hoax.

What makes the case of Rushdie and the verdict against him particularly complicated and defying any solution is that the person (the late Imam) who pronounced it is no longer with the nation to revoke. And no one wants to be the first to even remotely suggest that the Imam was wrong by asking for the reversal of his decision on Rushdie. The Islamic Republic believes what it has done toward Rushdie has been just and correct and effective in stopping an anti- Islamic trend whose precedence was to be set by Rushdie's book.

Those (Western) countries desirous of having normal diplomatic and economic ties with the Islamic Republic should not by any means make the normal course of relations contingent upon the resolution of Rushdie's case. Since in that event they would be trying to pay for a mistake someone else made. Western countries' bilateral relations with Iran should be very consciously kept separate from the Rushdie's issue.

So, then, how can Rushdie get out of the quagmire he is in? The answer is that there is no way out, and that the man will have to pay for what he brought on himself. He has no one but himself to blame for what has and will happen to him. Some things should not be unleashed because if they are, no one will be able to stop their unforeseen consequences. Rushdie's case is of the same category.

You would expect a man of Rushdie's so-called caliber and intellectual sophistication to know what he is doing. But the facts indicate the opposite. He seems not to have learned one very basic fact by the time he was writing the Satanic Verses which is: one must respect others' beliefs no matter how different they are from his.

One other thing. If the supporters of Rushdie think they can get the desired result by getting together and applying pressure they couldn't be further away from reality.

Motives of Minister's UAE Visit Questioned

NC2602184193 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Why Did the Defense Minister Go to Abu Dhabi?"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi is the venue of the International Arms Exhibition in which high-level officials of several countries, including Iranian Defense Minister Akbar Turkan, are taking part.

The truth of the matter is that following the collapse of the East Bloc, the arms market faces severe stagnation and recession. The European governments which were appalled by the East-West confrontation, are no longer avid for arms purchases. They rather essay to give the arms stored from the Cold War era as quickly as possible to any suitable customer in return for credible currency. This is especially obvious and apparent for the East European countries.

The unfavorable situation of the arms market on the one hand and the general stagnation and recession in the Western economy on the other hand paved the way for the arms sellers to turn to the Persian Gulf market. Under such a situation, the arms dealers feel that with its petro-dollars, this zone will be the best place for selling their lethal weapons.

This is while all Persian Gulf countries are considered underdeveloped at the global level, and in the past two decades when oil prices increased, this God-given asset has unfortunately not as yet been able to fundamentally separate these countries from the Third World.

In point of fact, oil revenues have been mainly used for the purchase of consumption goods—including arms—rather than capital goods. In fact, the oil revenue—without bringing about any serious change in these countries' economy—was returned to the West. The Abu Dhabi International Arms Exhibition is actually like a net for trapping the petro-dollars of the Persian Gulf countries.

To flourish their markets, the arms dealers have to create forged animosity among the regional countries, using the mass media at their disposal so as to more easily and quickly sell their lethal goods. In the meantime, the presence of our defense minister in Abu Dhabi seems strange and wrong for two reasons:

1) After continual unfrindly stances adopted by high-ranking United Arab Emirates officials against Iran over the past three months, the presence of a high-level Iranian official in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] does not seem correct even if it is justified as being unofficial. It should be borne in mind that following the visit of high-ranking Saudi and Kuwaiti officials to Iran over the last two weeks and the friendly statements of the president in the Friday prayer sermons on ties with the southern Persian Gulf countries, we still witness that the UAE has adopted a hostile standpoint toward Iran.

2) As observed over the last two or three days, the presence of Engineer Torkan in Abu Dhabi has become an appropriate pretext for propaganda by the mass media which serve as trailblazers for arms- manufacturing firms. The presence of our defense minister in Abu Dhabi has doubled the false Western pretexts and propaganda to the effect that Iran is perilous for regional countries and that Iran intends to purchase modern weapons and arms and to perform the role of gendarme of the Persian Gulf.

Shipping Company To Be Established To Link ECO

LD2602181893 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] Astara (Gilan Prov.), Feb. 26, IRNA—Iran has made preparations to set up a large shipping company for activities among the 10-member Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), spokesman for the Islamic Republic Shipping Company Husayn Pursan Fumani said here Thursday.

Referring to the fact that Central Asian nations have no access to international waters, he said implementation of the project would help those Central Asian countries import their needed goods via northern Iranian ports.

He said the Caspian Sea Shipping Co. started its activity last month with the passenger ship 'Mirza Kuchak Khan' making a voyage towards Baku, the capital of the Azerbaijan Republic.

Pursan Fumani said that his company was studying plans to arrange special voyages to Russian ports.

The Caspian Sea Shipping Company, a subsidiary of the Islamic Republic Shipping Company which is based in Bandar Anzali was established in 1992.

During the first half of the current calendar year, the company made 24 voyages, carrying 64,000 tons of cargo to Noshahr and Anzali port cities, both along the Caspian Sea, and earning dlrs [dollars] 772,000.

Daily Warns of Large Scale Fraud, Embezzlement

NC2602180793 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Financial Corruption, Dire Peril for Revolution"]

[Text] A large network has been uncovered involving embezzlement, bribery, and extensive domestic and foreign currency abuse at managerial levels in weaving industry firms affiliated to the Foundation for the Disabled and the Industries and Mines Bank and the representatives of foreign firms in Iran. All those involved have been arrested and have admitted that they have so far received more than $3 million in bribes. A major part

of the embezzled money has been returned to Iran through their personal accounts in Germany, England, Austria, and Switzerland.

Measures taken by the disciplinary forces of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the Deprived in arresting the members of this group were appropriate and timely but yet insufficient. It is an old practice for multinational firms, but one that has recently become widespread, to indulge in the pernicious practice of offering "bribes" under the guise of "giving a percentage" to clients in return for favors. This is in fact a means to corrupt the economic and management elite of the Third World countries. In principle, when a manager receives a percentage once and is thus corrupted, he turns into a covert agent of the relevant multi-national firm because the latter can at any moment threaten to reveal information regarding the manager's receipt of his percentage or cut in the deal.

Devious and highly questionable business practices like the payments and receipt of commissions can be a greater hazard to the country than imaginable and will have a terribly deleterious impact in the post-revolutionary establishment than anything else could. One has to take into account the fact that the country's industries were placed at the disposal of the government and its related institutions and are a trust held on behalf of the people. If the managers of these state institutions are tainted and defiled by such harmful practices, then it can only result in the inflow of low-quality raw material for industrial uses and this in turn can only lead to the production of commodities of very low quality to be passed on to consumers. Nothing can be more catastrophic to the revolution than a development of this nature.

The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majles) has recently legislated to put a halt to such malpractices as payment of commissions, cuts, percentages and whatever and this is certainly a move to be welcomed. Nevertheless, the passing of bills by the Majles is not enough by itself and the judicial authorities should act firmly and sedulously to nip not only this, but all forms of financial and administrative corruption in the bud, wherever it may occur, in all and every organization in the country where it may be found.

Judicial vigilance apart, the Majles on the basis of the Constitution should through follow-ups ensure that the laws already in force and those it will pass in future to contain corruption in all its forms in business and industry are strictly adhered to. Then the disciplinary forces within the ministries should act as forcefully and impartially to see to the proper execution of these laws. It is only in this way that the insidious influences of multinational firms working to corrupt the industrial and business managers in the country can be thwarted once and for all.

Pakistan

New Satellite To Be Launched Early Next Year

BK2702161893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan's indigenously built second artificial satellite Badar-2 is expected to be launched into space early next year. Zaman, the chairman of the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, said in a radio interview that Badar-2 will be technically more advanced than Badar-1. The new artificial satellite has been built by Pakistani scientists without any foreign technical assistance. Badar-2 is equipped with systems through which its direction will be changed from the ground station. Scientists are also considering installing a camera on Badar-2 so it can take pictures of the earth.

CIA Killings Suspect Staying With Hekmatyar

BK2702102593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Feb 93 p 12

[By Umer Alam]

[Text] Karachi—Much-publicised Aimal Kansi who alledgedly killed two employees of Central Intelligence Agency outside CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia, on January 25, is said to be staying with Hezb-e Eslami Leader Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar at Jalalabad which is said to be the safest haven in Afghanistan. Informed sources told this correspondent during his recent visit to Quetta that the American commandos have left Quetta City after having failed in their mission to find Kansi there. The sources expressed surprise as to how Kansi had entered Afghanistan while his name was on the exit control list.

Sources said that Quetta-based Kansi's arrival in America is still a mystery, as he left Pakistan in 1991 without an American passport [as published]. How he got a job first in a courier service run by a former CIA agent is also a mystery.

Chashma Nuclear Plant Under IAEA Safeguards

BK0103122293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] Pakistan and International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] have signed an agreement for the application of agency's safeguards on 300-megawatt nuclear power plant being installed at Chashma. The agreement has been signed in Vienna at the meeting of IAEA board of governors. The chairman of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad, and Director General of IAEA Dr. Hans Blix signed the agreement.

Indian Forces Torture, Kill 150 Kashmiri Youths

BK2702154893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, Indian forces have killed 150 youths in torture cells in the current month. The KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE, quoting a Jammu daily, says aside from these youths, two prominent doctors and three acclaimed freedom fighters were made victims of the Indian forces' brutality in the past few days alone.

Meanwhile, massive demonstrations were held yesterday against India after the death of a youth in police custody in Anantnag. The people became incensed when the half-burned body of Sajjad Memon was handed to his relatives. Two youths arrested during a house-to- house search in Bandipura were killed in torture cells.

Retaliating against this brutal act, the freedom fighters attacked a military camp, killing three soldiers. Two freedom fighters, including Mohammad Hasnain Butt, a commander of the Hizbul Mojahedin, were martyred.

Another report says two soldiers were killed and several injured in an explosion after a military vehicle hit a land mine at Gori Road near Rampur.

Paper Criticizes CIA Drug Report on Pakistan

BK2702103193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 26 Feb 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan Pilloried"]

[Text] The CIA document published in an American newspaper the other day has made allegations against the civil and military institutions in Pakistan of collaborating with, and providing protection to, drug smugglers. The allegations, whatever their accuracy, may provide an additional stick with which to beat us. Pakistan is still wrestling with the pressures against nuclear proliferation and the threat of being declared a terrorist state. On top of all that comes this somewhat contradictory report which besmirches Pakistan's ruling circles at the highest level. The authors of the report, the American CIA, can hardly wax morally indignant on this, or for that matter on any other issue. Let us not forget that the CIA is the most notorious organisation which has earned its spurs by all manner of covert operations seeking to destabilise governments in third world countries not considered amenable to American influence or interests. On the issue of drugs smuggling from Pakistan, the CIA surely has not forgetten how it turned a blind eye to this activity even while it pumped in millions of dollars worth of arms and aid during the Afghan war. It may have been expedient then for the Americans to focus only on Afghan resistance to the Soviets while ignoring these little "misdemeanours" on the side. It appears expedient now to pillory Pakistan for a mess to which the American CIA can rightfully be considered to have contributed a major share.

This is not to deny that Pakistan has been blighted by the growth of a drug mafia. In that sense some of the allegations may be true. But they are mixed with a blanket condemnation of Pakistani state and society which smacks of more sinister motives. The ubiquitous tentacles of the drug mafia have gripped a great deal of society and the power structure in its evil grasp. Whether, however, a conscious support in lent by any of the state's structures to such nefarious activity is yet to be proved beyond any doubt. It is the inability of the state to implement and enforce the laws against the drug smugglers which leads to suspicions of collusion and collaboration. Pakistan needs to gear up its machinery of law enforcement in order to avoid such charges and to carry the fight against the drug smugglers to some effective conclusion. The first and foremost condition for that is that the big fish amongst the drug mafia be hauled up without consideration of fear or favour and irrespective of how well connected they may be. Only when the law takes, and is seen to take, its own course against the drug barons, no matter how powerful, will Pakistan retain credibility in the international community and demolish the inspired propaganda of doubtful sources such as the CIA.

Poppy Cultivation on Rise in Dir, Bajour

BK0103091793 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 1 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Dir, Feb 28—The lack of government attention and reluctance to provide alternate source of earnings to the tillers, poppy cultivation is again rising in Dir and Bajour Agency [sentence as published].

According to a survey, poppy has been cultivated on most part of the agriculture land of Dir district and Bajour Agency. The farmers complain that the government has failed to honour its committment of providing alternate sources of earning and carrying out development work in these areas. So they [have] no other option but to cultivate poppy on their small pieces of land which cannot yield other crops enough for meeting their requirements.

The PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] MNA [member of National Assembly], Najmuddin Khan has announced full support to the poppy growers and said that the crop will be cultivated till the government provides alternate sources of earning to the people. He said that the people of these areas are ready to face any consequences, but will not give up poppy cultivation.

Sharif Comments on Constitution's 8th Amendment

BK2802144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] Talking to newsmen in the Parliament House this morning, the prime minister said constitutional experts are reviewing the eighth amendment to bring about a suitable change. If the nation, he said, has opted for the

parliamentary form of government it must be effected and (?asked) to serve the mandate given by the electorate in a meaningful manner. He, however, clarifiifed that the Islamic package provided for in the Eighth Constitutional Amendment will remain intact.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said there is no rift and division in the Pakistan Muslim League. If one or two members have difference of opinion, it should not be taken as a rift. Referring to the distribution land of among landless haris [peasants] in Sindh, the prime minister said it should be emulated by other provinces.

Army's Role in Sindh Determined by Government

BK2702162093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] A spokesman of the Public Relations Department of the military in Rawalpindi described as incorrect recently published press reports that the Army may freeze its operations in Sindh if certain conditions are not met. The spokesman said there is not an iota of truth to these reports, adding that the Army was called to assist the civilian administration and will continue its operation in accordance with the government's instructions. The Army will continue to carry out its operations sincerely under the powers given it by the government so long as the government needs its services.

High-Altitude Army Helicopters Ordered

BK2802124993 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Feb 93 p 12

[Text] Karachi—Pakistan Army Aviation (PAA) has placed an order for purchase of 12 new high-altitude SA-315B Lama helicopters with a French firm Eurocopter. This will supplement the PAA's six Lamas fleet and support the forward positions on the border with India.

The delivery of the Lamas to Pakistan is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The halicopters will be built from Alouette spare parts as the Lama combines features of Alouette II and III having the reinforced airframe of the former and the power plant and the rotor blade of the latter.

Lama helicopters were designed in late 1968 to meet the requirement of the Indian Armed Forces. The first prototype of Lama was flown on March 17, 1969. During the same year, a Lama carrying a crew of two and 140 kg of fuel made the highest landings and takeoffs ever recorded at a height of 24,600 feet. A Lama also set a helicopter absolute height record of 40,820 feet on June 21, 1972.

Though the Aerospatiale Helicopter Division has ended production of Lamas, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited still makes them as Cheetahs for the Indian Army. They are also assembled by Helibras in Brazil.

The Indian Army operates more than 100 SA-S15B Cheetahs and the Air Force around 60. However, all Indian Air Force Lamas and Alouettes are being transferred to the newly-established Army Aviation Corps.

It is estimated that by January 1, 1989, 407 Lamas were delivered to 31 countries.

Besides the pilot and the copilot, the Lama can carry three passengers while as an ambulance it can accommodate two stretchers and a medical attendant. It is also used for agriculture sprays and can be equipped for rescue, liaison, observation, training, photographic and other duties. It can carry an external load of 1,135 kgs at an altitude of 8,200 feet.

In August 1992, the Indian Army shot down a Pakistani Lama II with an SA-16 Igla shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile, killing 333 Brigade Commander Brigadier Naveed Anwari and two majors on board.

The ASIAN DEFENCE JOURNAL, in one of its recent issues, claimed that the Pakistani brigadier was on an aerial reconnaissance mission when his helicopter was shot down.

It added that the brigadier had gone to see an operation which Pakistani commandos had launched on July 29, 1992, on Urdelup Glacier.

More than 50 Pakistani SSG commandos were killed in the operation which was launched to capture the 20,000 feet high Manjit Post.

Contingent Leaves for Somalia UN Operation

BK2802122493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Feb 93

[Text] Another contingent of Pakistan troops left Rawalpindi for Mogadishu by a special U.S. aircraft late last night. The troops will join the multinational UN Peacekeeping troops in Somalia. Senior army officers were present at the PAF [Pakistan Air Force] Chak Lala base to see them off. More troops are likely to proceed to Mogadishu within a couple of days.

Five-Year Plan on Electricity Generation Aired

BK2702094293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] A five-year plan is being implemented to generate 5,000 megawatts of electricity to meet growing energy needs of the country. The plan is likely to cost more than 76 billion rupees. A senior official of the Water and Power Development Authority told ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Lahore yesterday that under the plan, which is likely to be completed by 1997, new extension projects will be set up in Mangla, Tarbela, Dadu, Kot Addu, Muzaffargarh, Faisalabad, and Kotri, while several other thermal and hydroelectric projects are also under construction.

Restoration of Closed Textile Mills Sought

BK2702163293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 27 Feb 93

[Text] Pakistan is in constant touch with Iran on functioning of defunct Pakistan-Iran textile mills at Baleli near Quetta and at Uthur in Lasbela District. Talking to officers and staff of these mills in Quetta today, the Federal Production Minister Mr. Islam Nabi said that both the Governments of Pakistan and Iran were making earnest endeavor to restore these mills lying defunct for more than a decade. He said both the countries are trying for removing all the obstacles to the smooth and satisfactory working of these mills. He said there is no truth in the reports that these mills would be closed.

U.S. 'Double Standards' in Region Criticized

BK2702155593 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 25 Feb 93 p 3

[Editorial: "American President's Strange Logic"]

[Text] While referring to the anti-Muslim riots in India, U.S. President Bill Clinton said that the United States cannot stop them because India is very far from their country and it is very difficult to exert influence on India. He said it will be appropriate if the United Nations plays its role in this regard. The logic offered by the U.S. president on the killing of Muslims in India has unmasked the U.S. character and its double-standards. If geographical distance is accepted as a factor for intervention, then what one should say about the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam? Geographically, Vietnam is even farther than India. Even if one terms the U.S. intervention in Vietnam as an outcome of the Cold War confrontation, then what justification will he offer for U.S. air and missile attacks on Iraq and the deployment of U.S. forces in Somalia? America projects itself as the champion of basic human rights and protector of minorities and democracy in the world. This was the main reason for its confrontation with the Soviet Union, and this was again the objective for which the United States overthrew governments in a number of Third World countries and stopped aid to others in a bid to force them to toe the line on its own policies.

A clear evidence of the double-standards policy of the United States is its anti-Pakistan propaganda for its so-called fundamentalism and terrorism. It wants to impose its own perceptions and principles unilaterally on Pakistan with the sole intention of forcing this country to formulate policies which harmonize with U.S. priorities. On the other hand, the United States is not willing to exert any sort of pressure on India. The U.S. president's argument that no influence can be exerted on India due to the geographical distance is totally absurd. All global financial organizations today devise policies and provide aid to developing countries as instructed by the United States. Given the acute economic crisis India is facing, it will be left with no option but to accept if a condition—that it will have to protect the Muslim minority and grant the Kashmiris their right to self-determination—is set for the continuace of economic aid.

So far as the role of the United Nations is concerned, it is now universally acknowledged that this organization has lost its impartial status. The Security Council adopts only those resolutions which serve the interests of big powers. Therefore, it will not be wise to expect anything about the protection of the Indian Muslims from this organization. The U.S. president appears to be unwilling to see Indian Muslims being allowed their religious, social, and human rights. Or, he wants to use India to fulfill some U.S. objectives and which is why he does not like to annoy it. Either way, such a posture for a country like the United States, which claims to be the champion of freedom, democracy, human rights, and protector of minorities, is shameful and regrettable. Peace, justice and righteousness cannot be upheld in the world unless the policy of righteousness and justice is made a part of global policies.

Editorial Concerned Over 'Indo-Russian Alliance'

BK0103092193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 1 Mar 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Indo-Russian Axis"]

[Text] Saudi Arabian daily 'ALSHARQN-AL-AWAST' has done a valuable service to the cause of peace by alerting the world to the dreadful implications of Indo-Russian alliance for the security and stability of the region and of the entire globe.

It has come as an unwelcome surprise that the Russian Federation failed to adjust its foreign policy to the postcold war era to its own detriment. The geo-political realities of the superpower confrontation made it necessary for the former Soviet Union to have close economic and strategic relations with India, but after the end of the cold war, there is no such compulsion. Both the altered ground situation and Russia's own vital interests demand that Moscow should correct this bias in favour of India and exhibit an even- handed approach to various states in this region.

One of the most worrying concerns at the moment for the world is to end the crazy arms race in this part of the world. The massive build-up of conventional and nuclear weapons in the region is largely the result of the fear of growing bright of India. Over the years, it has acquired a capability in this field which far exceeds its legitimate defence needs.

The world, which of course includes US and Russia as well, should wish to see peace prevailing in this region

not only because peace is desirable in itself, but because a secure South Asia can contribute substantially to the global prosperity. A war in the region will benefit no one, including Moscow. Given the degree of atomic proliferation, a future conflict is very likely to develop into a fall-scale nuclear war. The consequences are too horrible to imagine. Considering the size of the Indian army, its technological and industrial base, human resources, and the high-rate growth of its military industrial complex, the balance of military power is heavily in favour of India. In view of internal political instability, there is strong tendency in the ruling elite of India to externalise its domestic problems by attacking someone smaller than itself and win temporary relief from troubles at home.

This being the case, Russian leaders should use their clout with India to defuse the situation, to work in earnest for creating a climate of understanding in this region. In short it should play the role of an honest broker. Instead of that Moscow has embarked upon a course of self-destruction by transferring state-of-the-art satellite technology, and selling on the cheap highly sophisticated war weapons to India. This will raise political temperature in the region, accelerate the process of acquiring armaments and make non-proliferation virtually impossible.

Presumably Mr Yeltsin's India policy is the outcome of the combined pressures of former communists, hard-line nationalists, and neo-fascists conservatives. The sooner he can free himself from ghosts of the past, the speedier will be the recovery of Russian Federation from the chaos that has engulfed it.

U.S. Said To Target Nuclear Facilities

BK2802160493 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 28 Feb 93 p 10

[Editorial: "Nuclear Installations of Third World Countries May Be Targeted"]

[Text] The United State, which does not even like Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, is active in setting up a system by which it can target the nuclear installations, weapons, and missiles of the former Soviet republics and the Third World countries. The commander of the U.S. nuclear strike force, General Butler, has said that the U.S. Army is manufacturing computer models [preceding two words in English] which will be used for attacks on those Third World countries which are thought to be terrorist countries and which have been producing nuclear and chemical weapons. The general says that despite the U.S. objection, certain countries have not yet abandoned the manufacture of nuclear arms and the only way to discourage them is to destroy their nuclear installations and nuclear arms. The reported U.S. program and its intentions should only be described as dangerous. Therefore, countries whose nuclear programs are meant only for peaceful purposes can also come under U.S. attack. But the United States is not ready to admit that. It is obstinate in its stand that these countries not only have the capacity to explode nuclear devices, but have already blasted them. However, General Butler says the United States will launch an attack only when it becomes indispensable. In other words, its intention is to browbeat the Third World countries and to effectively convey the message that if they do not give up terrorism, they will be severely dealt with. Otherwise, there will not be any hindrance to their routine affairs. Considering the new system as part of its defense, the United States is giving life to it.